

NOV 29 2007

PREVIEW

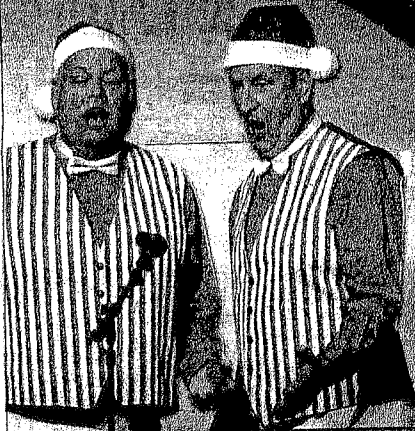
Weekly arts and entertainment guide for North County



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Holiday Entertainment Guide: See Inside.



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For the week of November 29 - December 5, 2007

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
SD Union Tribune**

NOV 22 2007

PUBLIC EYE

'GRINCH' ORDERED TO REOPEN

"One Grinch in town is enough," quipped a Manhattan judge yesterday in ordering **Jack O'Brien's** Broadway production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" to reopen, despite the continuing stagehands strike.

Many of the children cast as Dr. Seuss' Whos from Whoville attended a hearing on Tuesday at which state Supreme Court Justice **Helen Freedman** listened to arguments from producers of the show and owners of the St. James Theatre. The producers had a special contract with the seasonal show, but the theater owners fought the reopening.

Jujamcyn Theaters, the owner, plans to appeal the ruling. Unless they prevail, the \$6 million "Grinch" will reopen at 11 a.m. today, said John Kuster, an attorney for the producers.

The closing of the "Grinch" resulted from a management lockout rather than the strike, for the theater owners refused to allow performances of the musical even though the stagehands union was willing to work the show.

The Broadway "Grinch" is a souped-up version of the holiday musical that opened at San Diego's Old Globe 10 years ago and has become a seasonal hit. (The Globe "Grinch" with three new songs officially opens here next week).

In New York, "How The Grinch Stole Christmas!" was the first show to be affected by the stagehands strike when the early matinee on Nov. 10 was shuttered, leaving ticketholding kids and grownups milling about West 44th Street.

Ironically, the first Broadway opening to be canceled by the strike also had deep San Diego connections. "The Farnsworth Invention," directed by former La Jolla Playhouse boss Des McAnuff and seen here as a Page to Stage event earlier this year, was shut down by the strike last week.

Like 27 other Broadway shows during this busiest week of the New York theater season, "Farnsworth" will not reopen until the strike is settled. No new talks have been scheduled.

- ANNE MARIE WELSH

NOV 22 2007

Strike shatters Broadway's 'Grinch'

MICHAEL KUCHWARA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Even the Grinch wants to get back on the boards.

When talks between striking stagehands and theater producers broke down last weekend, James Sanna, like everyone else on Broadway, was watching the negotiations closely.

Sanna is the producer of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical." Of the 27 shows shut by Local 1's dispute with the League of American Theaters and Producers, "Grinch" — which premiered at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre 10 years ago — is the only holiday show and has a limited run. It is scheduled to close Jan. 6.

"It's been really difficult for our show," Sanna said last Thursday. "Most of the people who buy tickets for our show are families. They plan in advance."

"So even the looming



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

James Sanna, producer of the Broadway production of the 'Grinch' musical, outside the closed theater.

threat of a strike was hurting our sales. And obviously, the strike itself is devastating when we had seven shows that were sold out just disappear."

For Sanna, this gloomy run-up to the holiday season contrasts sharply with the ap-

pearance of "Grinch" on Broadway last season, an engagement that made even veteran Broadway producers take notice.

More than 200,000 theatergoers saw the musical during its 11-week run, a run that produced million-plus weekly grosses, often on 12 performances, each week rather than the customary eight for Broadway. The show's total gross topped \$15 million.

Because of that success, "Grinch" planned several 15-performance weeks this year — including a concentrated eight performances on all-important holiday weekends when family theatergoing is most popular.

"This year, we were tracking to do just as well, and then news of the strike has really slowed down our sales. At this point last year, if you called, it would have been difficult to get a good ticket. This year, because we have had so many cancellations,

► STRIKE

Continued from 15

there is a great opportunity for families who want to see 'Grinch.'"

Sanna, now in his early 40s, has been executive producer of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, so he knows the power of a holiday show.

"But it got to the point where I wanted to do some of my own shows," he said, and formed his own company called Running Subway.

"A lot of people in the entertainment industry just use their name," Sanna said. "What I wanted to say was ... 'We're a New York-based company but if we do things right, you sort of don't notice us. We're underground, and we're really not the stars. It's the properties that are the stars, not the producer.'"

"James understands the family audience — what they want and how to market to them," said Nancy Coyne, head of Broadway advertising agency Serino Coyne Inc. "His years at Radio City and then Madison Square Garden gave him hands-on experience that resulted in the Grinch's enormous success last year. The number and schedule of performances is a crucial element in a seasonal property's ability to make money and James has perfected the formula. Nothing

short of a strike could have stopped him."

The stagehands walked off the job Nov. 10 in a contract dispute that has focused on how many stagehands are required to open a Broadway show and keep it running. A second round of negotiations between producers and the stagehands union broke down on Sunday and nearly all Broadway performances were canceled through Thanksgiving weekend.

Sanna said "Grinch," directed by Old Globe artistic director Jack O'Brien, was always a title he knew would have a lot of appeal — "because it's such a heartwarming story about redemption, which is the best message possible at Christmas."

"As a kid, I loved Dr. Seuss — specifically the 'Grinch' (which) was a real touchstone around the holidays for me," he said.

"I thought, 'Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could do that on Broadway?' Our whole thought was we could establish a tradition on Broadway for families with a holiday show. And that's what we've attempted to ... achieve."

It was Sanna who supervised the enhancement of a version done at the Old Globe, the addition of new songs and expansion of the book.

"We wanted to do a family show that was the full Broadway experience."

The Biggest Secret in Hollywood...

The logo for Variety magazine, featuring the word "VARIETY" in a stylized, bold, serif font with a registered trademark symbol.

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Posted: Fri., Nov. 9, 2007, 4:00pm PT

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas: The Musical

(St. James Theater; 1,786 seats; \$111.50 top) A Running Subway presentation, with EMI Music Publishing, Michael Speyer, Allen Spivak, Janet Paillet, Amy Jen Sharyn, Maximum Entertainment, of a musical in one act with music by Mel Marvin, book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, based on the book by Dr. Seuss. Additional music and lyrics by Albert Hague and Dr. Seuss. Original production conceived by Jack O'Brien. Directed by Matt August. Musical direction, Joshua Rosenblum. Choreography, Bob Richard. Original choreography, John DeLuca.

The Grinch - Patrick Page
Young Max - Rusty Ross
Old Max - Ed Dixon
Cindy-Lou Who - Athena Ripka

By MARK BLANKENSHIP

It's still no masterpiece, but "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas: The Musical" has improved. New songs and some welcome recasting add a dash of substance to the kid-friendly tuner, now in its second holiday engagement on Broadway.

Unsurprisingly, the strongest bits from last year's production return intact. As the Grinch -- that green, misanthropic meanie who wreaks havoc on his holiday-loving neighbors, the Whos -- Patrick Page still charms. His vamps and snarls have gotten sharper, and he finds new softness in the scenes where little Cindy-Lou Who (Athena Ripka, at the perf reviewed) loves him in spite of his skullduggery.

Rusty Ross has been with the tuner since its original run at San Diego's Old Globe, yet his work as Young Max, the Grinch's pooch sidekick, remains energetic. He doesn't pander to the tykes in the crowd, but instead opts for honest feeling over hammy antics.

However, Ross and Page's singing voices were notably ragged on press night, which doesn't bode well for the show's demanding, 13-perfs-a-week schedule.

At least Ed Dixon can pick up the vocal slack. Playing Old Max -- a role John Cullum yawned through last year -- he sings and acts with avuncular warmth. And he seems to enjoy his costume, which pairs a smart cardigan with ears, paws and a surprisingly agile tail.

Dixon gets a boost from a revised frame story. Instead of being a simple narrator, Old Max is now a weary traveler, taking a final look at his memories before he literally picks up his bags and heads on his way. His gentle melancholy -- also expressed in the sturdy new ballad "This Time of Year" -- provides a dash of emotional depth.

As for the Whos, they're still essentially generic, though songwriters Timothy Mason and Mel Marvin do give them more business in an upbeat new number called "It's the Thought That Counts." Choreographer Bob Richard crisply stages the ode to reducing holiday stress, sashaying a line of actors around brightly colored Who-presents and Who-stores.

Costumer Robert Morgan also deserves credit for crafting the oddly shaped Who-clothes -- many of the outfits resemble Christmas ornaments -- that actually allow the actors to dance.

Director Matt August maximizes the move from the cavernous stage of the Hilton Theater to the more intimate St. James stage. Whereas last year's ensemble darted around to fill the space, this troupe has the freedom to interact. The resulting stage business makes the background feel more specific and alive.

Yet despite these touch-ups, Mason's writing is still largely uninspired. His stabs at Seussian rhymes remain awkward, and his book retains some glaring errors. For instance, when the Grinch dresses as Santa to steal Christmas, he also disguises Young Max as a reindeer, tying a single antler on his head. Yet over and over, the script refers to Max's "antlers." Couldn't someone correct the script and eliminate the plural noun usage?

And couldn't someone help Old Max's new storyline end coherently, instead of having him wander off 10 minutes before the final number? It's as if Mason forgot to finish what he started.

Kids, of course, aren't likely to notice dramaturgical foibles, and the show will probably please family crowds. But this season's version should be considered a solid step forward, not a final draft. **With:** Caroline London, Aaron Galligan-Stierle, Tari Kelly, Darin De Paul, Jan Neuberger, Jordan Samuels, Johnny Schaffer, Katie Micha, Sami Gayle, Sky Flaherty, Andy Richardson, Janelle Viscomi, Jahaan Amin, Hunter Bell, Janet Dickinson, Carly Hughes, Josephine Rose Roberts, William Ryall, Jeff Skowron, Brianna Gentilella, Michael Hoey, Marina Micalizzi, Simon Pincus, Tianna Jane Stevens, Juliette Allen Angelo, Caitlin Belcik, Joseph Harrington, Jillian Mueller, Jacob Pincus.

Sets, John Lee Beatty; costumes, Robert Morgan; lighting, Pat Collins; sound, Acme Sounds Partners; wigs, Thomas Augustine; make-up, Angelina Avallone; puppet design, Michael Curry; special effects, Gregory Meeh; orchestrations, Michael Starobin; music coordinator, Seymour Red Press; production stage manager, Daniel S. Rosokoff. Opened Nov. 9, 2007. Reviewed Nov. 6. Running time: 1 HOUR, 20 MIN.

Read the full article at:

<http://www.variety.com/story.asp?l=story&r=VE1117935368&c=33>

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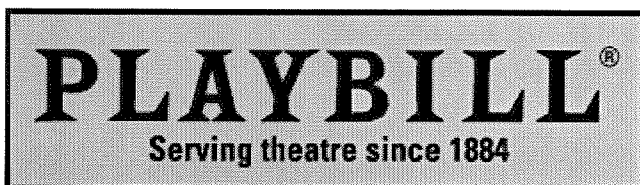
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Bein' Green: The *Grinch* Opens on Broadway Nov. 9

By Andrew Gans By Kenneth Jones
09 Nov 2007



Patrick Page is *The Grinch*.
Paul Kolnik

The return Broadway engagement of *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! – The Musical*, starring Patrick Page as the grumpy hermit whose heart is "two sizes too small," officially opens at the St. James Theatre Nov. 9.

The limited run continues through Jan. 6, 2008. Previews began Nov. 1.

The cast also features Ed Dixon as Old Max, Rusty Ross as Young Max, Darin DePaul as Grandpa Seth Who, Aaron Galligan-Stierle as JP Who, Tari Kelly as Mama Who, Caroline London as Cindy Lou Who, Jan Neuberger as Grandma Who and Athena Ripka as Cindy Lou Who.

The Citizens of Whoville include Jahaan Amin, Juliette Allen Angelo, Hunter Bell, Janet Dickinson, Sky Flaherty, Eamon Foley, Sami Gayle, Brianna Gentilella, Amy

Griffin, Joseph Harrington, Michael Hoey, Carly Hughes, Kurt Kelly, Liesl Jaye, Jess Le Protto, Marina Micalizzi, Katie Micha, Jillian Mueller, Andy Richardson, Josephine Rose Roberts, William Ryall, Jordan Samuels, Johnny Schaffer, Jeff Skowron, Tianna Jane Stevens, Heather Tepe and Janelle Viscomi.

The musical is based on Theodore Geisel's classic book, which is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Running Subway Productions and Tony Award-winning director Jack O'Brien present the second Broadway engagement of the holiday-hating Grinch. The musical runs approximately 90 minutes.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! – The Musical, according to press notes, is narrated by Max the Dog, who relates

"the Grinch's fiendish plan to steal Christmas from the holiday-loving Whos. However, the Grinch soon discovers there's more to Christmas than he bargained for." The show includes the songs "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome, Christmas," which are heard in the animated version of the Seuss classic, which is aired annually on television. Broadway composer Albert Hague (*Plain and Fancy*, *Redhead*) penned the music to the TV songs, which had lyrics by Seuss.

The rest of the show's score is by Mel Marvin and Timothy Mason. The 2007 staging includes two new songs ("It's the Thought That Counts" and "This Time of the Year") not heard last year, plus some re-imagined scenes since 2006.

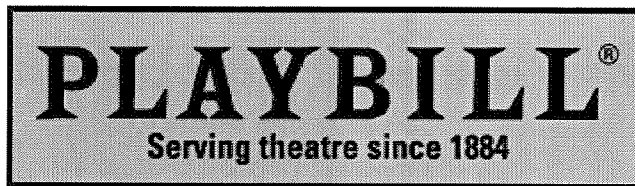
How the Grinch Stole Christmas – The Musical was presented at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre under the direction of Jack O'Brien with choreography by John DeLuca. It has played to critical acclaim and sold-out houses for the past decade. In fact, the Globe will present its 10th anniversary production of *The Grinch* Nov. 25-Dec. 30.

Matt August again directs the Broadway run with choreography by John DeLuca. The creative team also includes Bob Richard (co-choreographer), John Lee Beatty (scenic designer, whose set is new for this engagement), Pat Collins (lighting designer), Robert Morgan (costume designer), Michael Curry (puppetry), Joshua Rosenblum (musical director and vocal arranger), Acme Sound Partners (sound designer), Michael Starobin (orchestrator), David Krane (dance music arranger), Gregory Meeh (special effects designer), Angelina Avallone (makeup designer) and Thomas Augustine (hair/wig designer).

The St. James Theatre is located in Manhattan at 246 West 44th Street. Tickets, priced \$25-\$111.50, are available by calling (212) 239-6200 or by visiting www.telecharge.com. Group tickets are on sale by calling (800) 223-7565; for more information visit www.grinchmusical.com.



The cast of this year's *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! – The Musical* at the St. James Theatre.
photo by Paul Kolnik



PLAYBILL ON OPENING NIGHT: *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* — Lean, Mean and Green

By Harry Haun
12 Nov 2007

For the second time in as many days, a green-skinned monster invaded Broadway: *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* bowed at the St. James on Nov. 9, one day after its previous Broadway home (the Hilton) was taken over by that rampaging mass of used body parts *Young Frankenstein*, stitched together and struck with lightning.

"Struck" turns out to be an unfortunate choice of word. Ten hours after its opening-night party at the Tropic Zone at Seventh and 49th Street, it became *How the Stagehands Stole the Grinch*. Its 11 AM Saturday matinee was the first show *not* to go on because of the walk out by Local One, the stagehands union, that shuttered 27 Broadway houses. And because this limited-run musical is on a 12-to-15-performance week (almost twice the normal performance schedule for Broadway shows), it stands to lose the most from the strike.

Weather-wise, it was also a rough re-entry to the Main Stem. The heavens parted and pounded the re-premiere with driving rain, much like the torrential dousing that greeted the Grinch when he first got to Broadway 364 days previously. Can this be the traditional welcome?

Although producer **James Sanna** is plainly hoping his *Grinch* will become a yearly event here — and is talking of road-company forays into places like Boston and Los Angeles at the same seasonal time — the cited reason for this season's reprise is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Seuss' classic children's book, now a staple on the Kid Lit reading list. Sanna pointed out this little publishing footnote in his introductory remarks on stage, then introduced **Teri Hatcher** — a desperate housewife "and also a proud mom" — to read us into the show with a few pages from the original text.

Hatcher, wearing low-cut fire-engine red and surrounded by a gaggle of young'uns, began personally with, "Emerson, this is for you," and we were off to a color-coded holiday conflict of red states (the Christmas-crazy citizens of Whoville) versus green states (The Grinch, a lone, lonely holdout who hates all that cloying good-will-to-men stuff and relieves Whoville of its Christmas presents).

Robert Redford, no less, made the Broadway opening last year — his first since 1963 when he opened in **Neil Simon's** *Barefoot in the Park*. (Why *this*, you ask? His actress-daughter, **Amy Redford**, is engaged to the show's director, **Matt August**.) The opening-night star-power this year was markedly down; mostly, it was a matter of family outings. *M. Butterfly's* Tony-winning **B.D. Wong** and agent **Richie Jackson** brought the daughter they adopted. Shubert prexy **Phil Smith** treated his grandkids, **Campbell** and **James Phillips**, and their parents, **Linda** and **Martin Phillips**, to this delicious bonbon. First-nighters (so far, technically, *only*-nighters) saw a leaner show this year — the result of a year of rethinking and retooling — but almost half of the faces were familiar. Of a cast of 39, 18 are returnees, girded and ready to go after last year's record of 12 performances a week. First and foremost is **Patrick Page**, who now officially owns the title role. "He's very, very close to my heart," Page admitted. The Grinch that he pitches at us is a gleefully disagreeable old grouch so full of epicene overreach, mincing menace and throaty theatricality you start to suspect under all that green war-paint lurks **Kathleen Turner**. He is a perpetual pyrotechnic display. Being a five-year Lumiere no doubt helped. And also: "Some of the character is based on the Grinch cartoon, the way the body moves in the cartoon, and some of it is based just in animal

work, like with apes and reptiles." This would be exhausting work eight times a week, let alone 15. "So far, I haven't missed any performances," he beamed. His secret: "I do at least 45 minutes of stretching every day. I do about a half-hour of vocal warmups because the growling and shouting and all of that. I have physical therapy twice a week. I have acupuncture and massage once a week, and I have a chiropractor three times a week. I have a lot of people helping me." The theatre helps as well: "The St. James is an amazing house to play. I must say, as much as I enjoyed doing the show last year at the Hilton, there is an enormous difference here in your ability to play the audience." (Opening-night late-comers got a severely sinister glower; one shudders to think what will happen if a forgotten cellphone goes off.)

His wife, actress **Paige Davis** (that's right: in real life, she's **Paige Page**), returned from a national tour of *Sweet Charity* in time for her husband's return to Broadway. Her next stop will be resuming her hosting duties for "Trading Spaces," a reality series for cable. Also returning to the show is **Rusty Ross**, who plays The Grinch's dog, Young Max. There is also an Old Max (this year **Ed Dixon**, last year **John Cullum**) who narrates this tale of The Grinch's Christmas raid on Whoville. In the new and improved edition, they even get to interact in song. "It's near the beginning of the show, a duet we do called 'This Time of Year,'" said Ross, "and it sets up the idea that we're the same character. We call it 'a soft-paw number.' It's like a soft-shoe, but we're dogs so it's a 'soft-paw.'"

"I think the opening number with the two dogs just starts the show off on the right magical note," opted **Jan Neuberger**, who's back swinging her F. A. Who Schwartz shopping bag as dotty Grandma Who. "The other new song in the show is the shopping number, 'It's the Thought That Counts.' It's totally different from what we did before."

That song, like others in the show by composer **Mel Marvin** and lyricist-book writer **Timothy Mason**, is small-fry-friendly — melodic and accessible — and this particular one, said director August, is part of the show that has been reworked from the ground up: "There's a middle section of the show where The Grinch steals costumes to disguise himself as Santa Claus that is entirely new. **Bob Richards** has choreographed what is basically a six-minute production number for this new song. We have kept most of the songs in the show. We cut down the kids' song, 'Whatchama Who,' so that it's a little bit shorter — not much, but it has much more focused choreography in the new version." The director's director is twice-Tonyed **Jack O'Brien**, who started turning The Grinch into a Broadway song-and-dance man a decade ago at the The Old Globe and has kept a supervisory eye on the project ever since. When it finally developed that the show would make it to the Main Stem last year, O'Brien's plate was already full-to-overflowing with *The Coast of Utopia* so he assigned assistant August to bring 'er in. It was O'Brien, who retains the credit-line "Original Production Conceived and Directed by," who regrouped the show's creators to tinker with the show some more after its initial pass at Broadway. "We sat down with Jack O'Brien and thought very seriously about the storytelling involved in the show," recalled composer Marvin. "We felt we had to do more to develop the characters of the Whos and more to develop the beginning of the show of the two dogs so

that the whole thing got a little deeper. And that was what it really was born from — just thinking about how to tell the story, which is how you write musical theatre."

O'Brien is pleased with the results. "We keep learning now about New York and what it wants. There were some trims I wanted to make. I'm excited about how it came back."

Right now he's in the happy position of being between hits — fresh from the successful London launching of *Hairspray* with **Michael Ball** in **Harvey Fierstein**'s housedress ("I thought they were going to kill us over there. They love it. Who knew?") and getting ready for *Catch Me If You Can* ("That's the *Hairspray* alumni — **Marc Shaiman**, **Scott Wittman**, **Jerry Mitchell** — plus **Terrence McNally**. We've got a workshop coming up.")

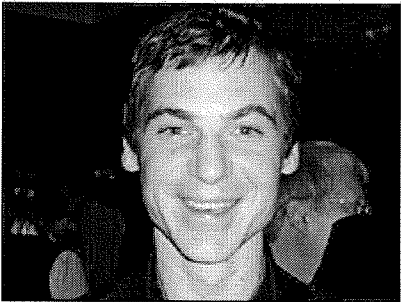
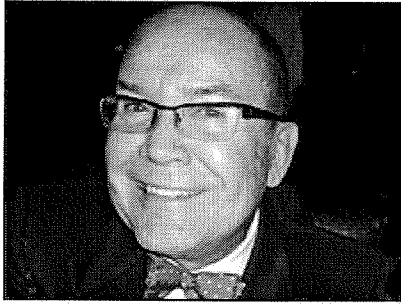
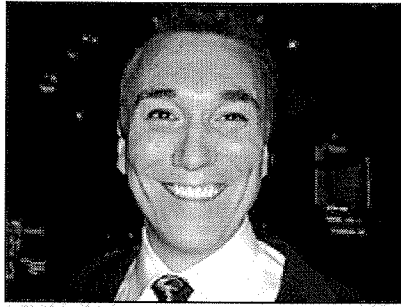
O'Brien figures this is **John Lee Beatty**'s fifth set-design for Whoville in the ten years they've been doing it (it won't be his last if the show multiplies into national companies). "I know why **Young Frankenstein** loved that large space at the Hilton," sighed Beatty. "I had to lose about 15 feet of space backstage when I redesigned our show for the St. James. But it's amazing how much you can cram backstage. It's still difficult, though." Currently, he's *Dancing in the Dark*. That's the new title for the stage version of the Fred Astaire-Cyd Charisse movie of 1953, "The Band Wagon." It will try out at the Old Globe in March, under the direction of *The Color Purple*'s **Gary Griffin**. The plot zigzags between 1952 and 1933 "so," said Beatty, "a designer has his work cut out for him."

William Ryall, another returnee, stands tall among the Whos — in fact, tallest — but doesn't have a lot of lines. He's the designated understudy for Old Max as well as — God forbid — The Grinch (although he *has* played that part on Broadway before: the Grinch he played in the original *Seussical* of 2000-2001 was close to a cameo).

New, this year, to the Whos is **Hunter Bell**, who was *not* cast because of his flaming red hair. (He wears a wig, but the real hair must have made a *pow* impression at the audition.) His character, he claimed, "is Palm Springs Who. He's one of the many Whos in Whoville celebrating Christmas. It's a thrill to work on this show, an absolute joy." This is said with exactly the same wide-eyed childlike wonderment he summons on stage. "I didn't do it last year. This is my first year in Whoville, and it's my Broadway debut. And what a place to do it — at the St. James! There's such a history in that building. What Jack and Matt talked to us about through the whole process — what the whole idea of doing this show is: Kids today have play stations and they have TV and they have iPhones and TiVos and Divos — and Jack and Matt wanted to create a show for young kids to come see that would have an impact on them, the way you and I saw things as a kid that had impact on us. I think they're wildly successful at it. I'm proud to be a part of it."



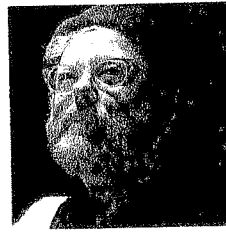
The cast of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* takes its photo by Aubrey Reuben



From Top: Patrick Page; Jack O'Brien;
Joshua Rosenbaum, Jan Neuberger and
James Sanna; Rusty Ross; Hunter Bell;
David Brooks and William Ryall; John
Lee Beatty; B.D. Wong
Aubrey Reuben

Arts

INTO VIEW
Michael Proft sees films from a unique perspective: He's a projectionist, so you could say that makes him a stand up guy / **E3**

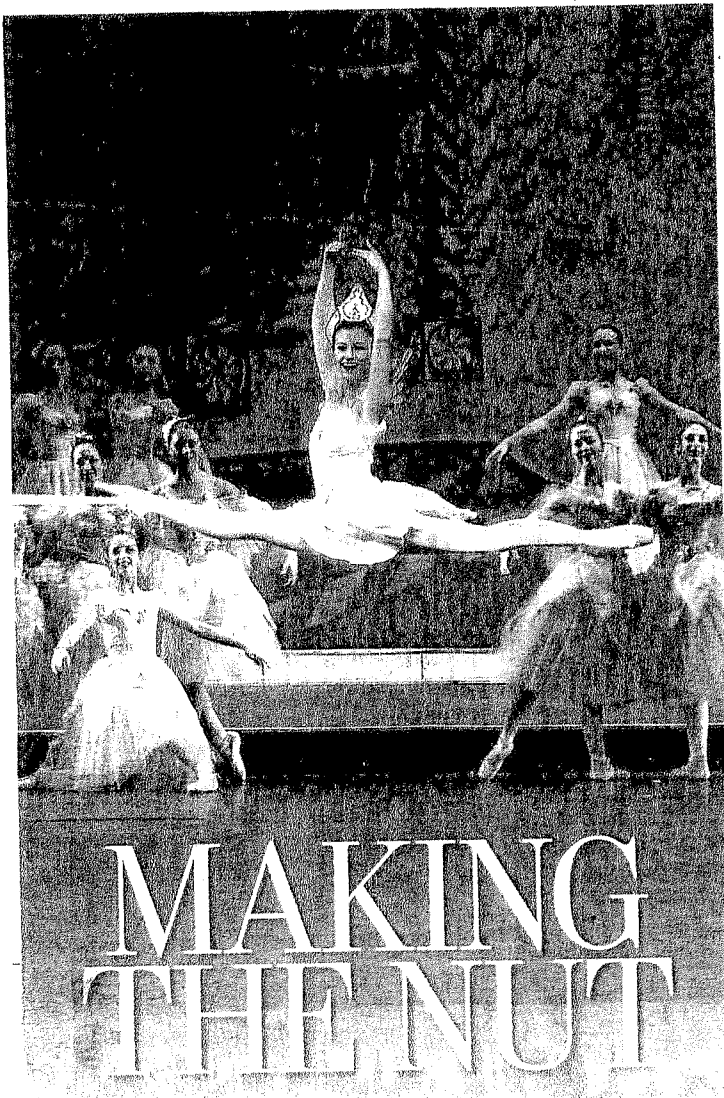


SUNDAY
December 9, 2007



THE SAN DIEGO
UNION-TRIBUNE

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Ballerina Cassandra Lund portrays the gravity-defying Dewdrop in California Ballet's "The Nutcracker" (left). The San Diego Chamber Orchestra's Jung-Ho Pak conducts a baroque-style "Messiah" (above). And Kevin Bailey, as the Grinch, joins James Royce Edwards, as Young Max, in the Old Globe's production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" (below).



Craig Schwartz

HOLIDAY SHOWS, THE ROSTER

California Ballet's "The Nutcracker": Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., next Sunday at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Dec. 20-21 at 7 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Dec. 23 at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave., downtown. Tickets/information: (858) 560-6741 or californiaballet.org.

The Old Globe's "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!": Continues through Dec. 30 at the Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park (times vary). Tickets/information: (619) 23-GLOBE or theoldglobe.org.

San Diego Chamber Orchestra's "Messiah": Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, 120 Stevens Ave., Solana Beach; Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at St. James-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743 Prospect St., La Jolla; next Sunday at 2 p.m. at California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd. Tickets/information for Friday and Saturday performances: (858) 350-0290 or sdco.org. For next Sunday's Escondido performance: (800) 988-4253 or artcenter.org.

San Diego Symphony's holiday programs: Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, today at 2 p.m.; Holiday Pops, Dec. 19-20 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 21-22 at 8 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2 p.m., with Family Festival version Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. All concerts at Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B St., downtown. Tickets/information: (619) 235-0804 or sandiegosymphony.com.

'Nutcracker,' 'Grinch' and other holiday shows are offerings that help sustain arts groups for the rest of the year

By Valerie Scher
CLASSICAL MUSIC CRITIC

For performing arts organizations, seasonal offerings such as "The Nutcracker," "Messiah" and "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" are gifts that keep on giving. As they warm hearts, they also heat up the box office, creating holiday

cheer in the form of cash.

So this time of year, green is more than a traditional Christmas color. Green means money, as in ticket revenue.

"Holiday productions have become increasingly important around the country for the ability to connect the art form and organization to the wider public as well as the ability to generate needed income for

our institutions," says Louis G. Spisto, executive director of the Old Globe, which presents the Dr. Seuss-inspired "Grinch."

Now in its 10th season, "The Grinch" is a monster of a holiday show, with 48 performances this year and an annual gross of about \$1 million. That dwarfs the income generated by local nonprofit groups including the San Diego Symphony, San Diego Chamber Orchestra and California Ballet.

How much money they all clear — if they clear any at all — varies greatly, depending on the cost of the individual productions. Whatever they make,

the financial reward is as welcome as a visit from Santa.

It's also highly reliable. A hit production can run year after year, entertaining generations of performance-goers and helping fund everything from riskier ventures to tickets for youngsters who couldn't otherwise afford to attend performances.

'NUTCRACKER' MADNESS

Nowhere is the holiday cash connection more important than at California Ballet, currently in its 40th anniversary season. It's one of a variety of local "Nuts," served up by such

companies as City Ballet of San Diego and San Diego Ballet.

Budgeted at about \$350,000, California Ballet's "Nutcracker" is expected to clear as much as \$140,000 for the 14-performance engagement consisting of four performances earlier this month at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts and 10 performances through Dec. 23 with the San Diego Symphony at downtown's Civic Theatre.

That will pay the major production costs for the rest of the company's season, which

SEE Season, E6

— VALERIE SCHER

SEASON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE E1

Shows serve as an introduction to the arts for kids

includes "Cinderella" and other repertoire in March.

"The Nutcracker" is really important," says founder-director Maxine Mahon. "It's essential to the financial stability of the company."

Mahon vividly recalls the struggle involved in paying for "Nutcracker" scenery in the early 1970s. At the time, she and her husband owned coin-operated car washes and used some of the cash for the new ballet production.

"We had no investment money — we were paying for sets with bags of quarters," she remembers. "We'd go to buy things and say, 'Can we pay for the clock with this?'"

California Ballet still uses the same prop clock (which has been repainted several times). Mahon's father-in-law made one of the sleighs. When the car washes were sold, the modest profit helped pay off the sets for the Tchaikovsky classic.

California Ballet's full-length production premiered in 1971, with excerpts dating back to the troupe's inaugural season. From those humble beginnings, the company's

"Nutcracker" has grown into the biggest version in the San Diego area, with a rotating roster of 160 performers that includes company members and students from its school, ages four to 14, plus accomplished visiting soloists.

Yet the popular production can't eliminate the company's long-standing debt, which now runs about \$500,000. And it can't pay for the holiday present Mahon would dearly love — colorful new sets and costumes that would cost between \$750,000 and \$1 million.

Still, there are some satisfactions money can't buy.

"We have generations of families coming to our 'Nutcracker,'" says Mahon, whose grandsons Aubrey Palhegyi, 11, and his younger brother Lane, 8, are in this year's production. "Children grow up and bring their own children. That makes me really happy. That's the best you can ask for."

Go 'Grinch'

Just as "The Nutcracker" serves as an introduction to ballet, "The Grinch" turns many youngsters into appreciative theater-goers. It's part of a rich array of theatrical offerings, which includes holiday productions by North Coast Repertory Theatre, Cygnet Theatre Company and Lamb's Players Theatre.

"The Grinch's" reach extends far beyond San Diego. A glimmed-up version is playing on Broadway (with the Globe



The Grinch (Kevin Bailey, center) has a new and easier-to-wear costume in this year's Old Globe production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Craig Schwartz

receiving a small percentage of the weekly gross). Next year at holiday time, "The Grinch" will begin touring the country, playing two cities per season.

The Globe's original production of the musical — directed by Jack O'Brien, with music by Mel Marvin and book and lyrics by Timothy Mason — has played to more than 375,000 children and adults here since its launch in 1998. Thousands more will attend this year's engagement, which continues through Dec. 30 at Balboa Park's 600-seat Old Globe Theatre.

"This is more than a show and more than income generated," says executive director Spisto. "This is about a connection to countless young people in the community and to their families. It's about changing their lives."

The Globe spent more than \$100,000 to freshen the show for its 10th anniversary. In addition to script changes, there are three new songs, including the carol "Fah Who Doraze" from the 1966 animated TV special, plus a new and less cumbersome costume for the title character.

Though the show brings in about \$1 million in ticket sales, nobody's popping champagne

or making extra trips to the mall. "The Grinch" is expensive to present. While Audrey Geisel, widow of Theodor Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss), allows "The Grinch" to be produced without a royalty, there are other fees and royalties as well as the salaries of actors, musicians and the crew.

When you subtract the approximately \$850,000 in costs, there's roughly \$150,000 left.

"Our 'Grinch' is not a cash cow in that regard," says Spisto, who refers to the surplus as a "contribution margin." "What we like to do with the money is make Ted Geisel's work even more meaningful."

With that in mind, the Globe funnels the money into education and outreach efforts, such as literacy initiatives, the "Seussabration" (involving 600 children annually) and free student matinees for "The Grinch" and other shows.

Music matters

Operating on a more modest scale is the San Diego Chamber Orchestra and the San Diego Symphony. Last year's three "Messiah" concerts, conducted by Chamber Orchestra artistic director Jung-Ho Pak, earned about \$40,000 in ticket

sales. They netted around \$10,000 (counting approximately \$7,000 in sponsorships).

"It helps us — oh, definitely," says the chamber orchestra's interim executive director, Pat Merino. "(The concerts) are good for the financial health of the organization. And the more we get Jung-Ho in front of audiences, the more people want to come to our concerts."

This Friday through Sunday, Pak will lead three more baroque-style "Messiah" performances with the orchestra, vocal soloists and chorus of Bach Collegium San Diego.

The San Diego Symphony is trying a different strategy. Instead of "Messiah," which music director Jahja Ling conducted last year, the orchestra has teamed with the San Diego Master Chorale in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. (The third and final performance is today at downtown's Copley Symphony Hall.)

In addition, the Holiday Pops, led by conductor Matthew Garbutt, has been expanded from three concerts to five, with the abbreviated Family Festival version capping the five-day run on Dec. 23.

"The demand is there," symphony executive director Edward B. "Ward" Gill says of

the expansion. "We're filling a need."

The orchestra expects to take in about \$400,000 in ticket revenue (approximately \$200,000 from the Beethoven performances and another \$200,000 from the Pops).

But because the cost of producing the concerts is so high — roughly \$780,000, about \$600,000 of which pays the salaries of orchestra members and stagehands — the organization actually loses \$380,000, which must be made up in contributions. The reality is that even when concerts sell out, nonprofit performing arts organizations like the symphony are typically unable to cover their expenses through ticket sales alone. And the orchestra's holiday fare does better financially than most concerts in Copley Symphony Hall.

Besides, the symphony considers holiday programming a must.

"At this time of year, we have the greatest importance to the community," says Gill. "People are celebrating. And we want to be part of it by making wonderful music."

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OCT - 2007

James Edwards in San Diego to star in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

James Royce Edwards has appeared on Broadway and traveled throughout the country with many national tours during the past ten years or so. A member of Tierrasanta Ward, San Diego East Stake, he grew up in Tierrasanta, became an Eagle Scout, graduated from Serra High School and majored in musical-dance-theater at BYU. During those years, he also served a mission in Argentina.

After performing on Broadway, in national tours, off Broadway shows, regional theater, and in film and television productions, James is back in San Diego to perform a lead part in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at the Old Globe Theater.

"This is a new version of 'The Grinch,'" James said. "It's the 10th annual showing, and just last year it opened on Broadway. This year the script and score will be the final version before it is officially licensed. The way my character is played will be the official way."

James will star as Max the dog (the Grinch's dog), a major role in the musical. "It's a great role," he said. James must be back in New York in January to perform in a new show, "Wanda's World," a musical about middle school. "It's a very good script," he added.

Tickets are on sale now for the "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at the Old Globe, which runs from November 25 through December 30.

Most recently touring with the musical "All Shook Up," James ended up in San Diego where the show finished its run. He and his wife Karin were about ready to have a baby and had to decide whether to return to New York immediately or stay in San Diego. He auditioned for the Old Globe, and when he got the part in "The Grinch" their decision was to stay here until January, so they gave up their apartment in New York. James has also booked a couple of other shows in California while they're in the area. Karin gave birth to their first child,

brettist for many shows, including "Fiddler on the Roof." "He hooked me up with his brother Jay Harnick and I joined Theaterworks USA. At that time I also joined Actors Equity." James was still at BYU and had joined the Young Ambassadors. He traveled throughout the United States and to Africa with the group.

After graduating from BYU he came back to San Diego. His first roles were as Jinx and Frankie in "Forever Plaid." He joined the show just after it moved to downtown San Diego from Old Town and remained with it until it finished its run eight months later.

For the next two years he had parts in regional theater in California. Then came his first big Broadway tour in 2002 to 2004 playing Sky in the first tour of "Mamma Mia!" After that he starred as Sketch and Link in a national tour of "Hairspray."

He was on the road with "Hairspray" when he received a call to audition for an off Broadway play, "Altar Boyz." He played Matthew and Luke for that production, and at that time he and Karin moved to New York City. There he performed in other shows.

Other parts in musicals for James have included Jean Valjean in "Les Miserables," a Theaterworks USA national tour; Lewis and Pippin in "Pippin," a Goodspeed national tour; and in regional productions as Joseph in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Ren in "Footloose," Rolf in "The Sound of Music," and Hal in "The Scarlet Pimpernel." In an Off Broadway production of the "Matthew Passion," James had the role of Jesus. In television and films, James has appeared on the Rosie O'Donnell Show, giving a special performance, and was a co-star in "Passions" for NBC and co-star in "The Chronicle" for the Sci-Fi Channel. He had the lead in "Star Child," a film by Omega Productions, and was a co-star in "Top Dog," a live entertainment show.



James Royce Edwards

Kadense James, on August 19.

So how did James Edwards make it in the difficult world of show business? No, he wasn't in theater in high school. Instead, he enjoyed being on the football, wrestling and volleyball teams. He sang in some choral ensembles, however.

His first part in a play was at BYU, and then he was smitten. He decided to

audition for a musical-dance-theater major, and after he was accepted, he realized, "I was in way over my head! It was really tough at first." After serving his mission in Argentina, however, it all came together for him. "Everything clicked," he said.

His professor at that time sent him to the Robert Redford Sundance Theatre, where he met Sheldon Harnick, the li-

4S Ranch sibling duo in 'Grinch'

Tree lighting ceremony set for opening night

By Eileen Sondak

After 10 years, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" has become a traditional holiday event at the Old Globe. To celebrate this important milestone, the 10th anniversary production will feature three new songs, expanded dance sections, a re-designed costume for the Grinch, and a number of other revisions.



ASHLEY TWOMEY

As usual, several local school children will be part of the production. Tommy Twomey (a second-grader at Stone Ranch Elementary School) and his sister Ashley Twomey (a sophomore at Westview High) live in 4S Ranch. They will sing and dance up a storm in the ensemble.

Skylar Starrs Siben (Cindy Lou), Gaby Greenwald (who alternates with



Above, last year's cast of The Old Globe's annual holiday production of 'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas' closes out the show.

Skylar in the leading child's role), and Noah Leung (as Boo Who) are also from North County. The Globe chose 10 children for this year's version of the holiday bon bon. They will alternate, so that five of them will appear in every show.

Acting is child's play to 15-year-old Ashley Twomey, so what does it mean to her to be making her Old Globe debut in this production of "The Grinch"?

"It's such a privilege and an honor to be in the show," she said. "I've auditioned before, but this is the first time I'll be in the cast. That's part of the reason it's such a big privilege. They're very professional and sophisticated, and it's great to be working

with adult actors and a professional crew. I have a lot of responsibility too, because I'll be taking care of the younger kids."

Her brother Tommy is just 8 years old, but he's already a returning veteran of the Globe's "The Grinch."

Why is it so special to Tommy the second time around?

"I'm doing the same part, but it's completely re-worked," he pointed out. "We have three new songs. It's really fun."

Both Twomey children have plenty of training under their belts in singing, dancing, piano, acting, and choir. Tommy played Chip in the Starlight production of "Disney's

Please see **Grinch** page B10

Continued from page B8

Beauty and the Beast" recently, and Ashley has a few professional appearances to her credit (including parts with Lawrence Welk and Moonlight). Nevertheless, performing together in "The Grinch" is a career high for both youngsters.

"The Grinch..." — which opens on Nov. 25 — will run through Dec. 30.

A Christmas tree lighting ceremony — a new tradition instituted last year is slated for 6 p.m. on Nov. 25, will kick off the holiday season. You can attend the tree lighting on the Globe Plaza, just before the opening performance. This family event will feature a special live performance by members of the "Grinch" cast, and a delightful holiday snowfall on the Globe Plaza. That's a treat in itself. The tree lighting is a free event, but you have to get the tickets through STAR 94.1. Radio personalities Laura Cain and Little Tommy will serve as emcees.

One of the major highlights of the Globe's holiday season is the Grinch Family Experience, an interactive day of fun that has been a hit with the small-fry set for the past five years.

This family gala offers the kids hands-on theater activities, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Globe's rehearsal hall across from the theater. This year's event takes place on Sunday, Dec. 2, and includes a buffet lunch, a puppet show, and an enchanting performance by the children in the "Grinch" cast.

The activity portion of the party features crafts, picture taking in Whoville, and mock snow ball fights, among other things. The kids come home with all sorts of holiday items they create themselves. Proceeds support the Globe's education and outreach programs.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" has already played to 350,000 children and adults over the years. As Executive



TOMMY TWOMEY

Director Louis Spisto noted, "We thank Audrey Geisel (better known as Mrs. Dr. Seuss) for her generous support of this production which has become a timeless holiday classic in the San Diego community. Those who've loved the Grinch in previous years will love it even more this year — and those who haven't experienced this classic tale live on stage, now is the time!"

With an extended run in the Main Stage of the Old Globe, there's plenty of time to see this colorful production — and the adults in the cast are all top-notch professionals. Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who) has been a fixture in San Diego theater since she was a child herself. Melinda Gilb and Steve

Gunderson (Mama and Papa Who) have carved out impressive careers and the rest of the ensemble rates high praise as well.

The lively music by Mel Marvin, the book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and Jack O'Brien's savvy direction add up to one of the most entertaining Christmas treats in town. Watching local youngsters perform alongside veteran actors is just frosting on the cake.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" even made it to New York last year where it proved just as big a hit (playing to sold-out audiences). In fact another production of "The Grinch" opened at Broadway's St. James Theater on Nov. 1, where it will remain through Jan. 8 of next year.

You can get tickets for the Globe show and the Grinch Family Experience by calling 619-23 GRINCH.

NOV - 8 2007

Local kids and new twists at this year's 'Grinch'

By Eileen Sondak
LA JOLLA LIGHT

The Grinch has been stealing the hearts of local children for the past decade, thanks to the generosity of La Jolla philanthropist Audrey Geisel.

Geisel (aka Mrs. Seuss) gave the Old Globe the rights to "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" — one of the most beloved stories Dr. Seuss ever wrote — and it has been a holiday tradition at the Globe for the past decade.

This year, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this delightful holiday show, the production will feature three new songs, expanded dance sections, a re-designed costume for the Grinch, and a number of other exciting revisions.

As usual, La Jolla kids will be part of the production. Ian Brinnin of Bird Rock, a sixth-grader at the Muirlands Middle School, will play Danny Who. Samantha Littleford of University City, a sixth grader at High Tech Middle School in Point Loma, will play little Annie Who. The two youngsters will be among the five children on stage for alternate performances of the popular Christmas show.

Samantha Littleford attends a charter school and has been very involved in a lot of theater. Acting is really child's play to the 11-year-old. So what does it mean to Samantha to be part

of the Old Globe's highly professional "How The Grinch Stole Christmas?"

"It's amazing," she said. "When I found out I got in, I was ecstatic. I take singing lessons, and I did piano, which I want to take up again. But acting is what I really want to do with my life, and I hope it is. It's so much fun, it doesn't feel like work."

"The Grinch" opens on Nov. 25 and will run through Dec. 30. This year, the Globe will continue its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, a new tradition instituted last year. The ceremony is slated for 6 p.m. on Nov. 25, just before the opening performance.

This family event will feature a special live performance by members of the "Grinch" cast and a delightful holiday snowfall on the Globe Plaza.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" has already played to 350,000 children and adults over the years.

"We thank Audrey Geisel for her generous support of this production, which has become a timeless holiday classic in the San Diego community," Old Globe Executive Director Louis Spisto said. "Those who've loved the Grinch in previous years will love it even more this year, and those who haven't experienced this classic tale live on stage, now is the time!"

With an extended run in the beautiful Main



Samantha Littleford of University City will portray Annie Who in this year's Old Globe production of 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.'

COURTESY

Stage of the Old Globe, there's plenty of time to see this production. In addition to talented kids both La Jolla and otherwise, the adults in the cast are all top-notch professionals.

Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who) has been a fixture in San Diego theater since she was a child herself. Melinda Gilb and Steve Gunderson (Mama and Papa Who) have carved out impressive careers and the rest of the ensemble rates high praise as well.

The lively music by Mel Marvin, the book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, and Jack O'Brien's savvy direction add up to one of the

most entertaining Christmas treats in town. Watching local youngsters perform alongside veteran actors is just frosting on the cake.

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You can get tickets for the Globe show and the Grinch Family Experience by calling (619) 23-GLOBE.

**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
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NOV - 5 2007

**North County
youths to appear in
Old Globe's 'Grinch'**

SAN DIEGO — The Old Globe Theatre's upcoming holiday production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" will feature several North County youngsters, including: Skylar Starrs Siben of San Marcos and Gaby Greenwald of Carmel Valley in separate casts as Cindy-Lou Who; Alison Grace Norwood of Carmel Valley as Betty-Lou Who; and Ashley and Tommy Twomey of 4S Ranch, part of the children's ensemble.

The show will run Nov. 25 through Dec. 30 at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego's Balboa Park.

Tickets range from \$39 to \$59 for adults, and from \$19 to \$31 for children 3 to 17 years old. For more ticket information and a complete performance schedule, go to www.theoldglobe.org/on_stage/schedule_Grinch_2007.html.

THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

Giving the Grinch

It was the kind of selfless gift that the Grinch himself would have envied—once his heart had grown three sizes. A decade ago, for the first and only time, the widow of Theodor Seuss Geisel—the writer known as Dr. Seuss—gave away the exclusive stage-production rights and royalties to one of her husband's most beloved stories, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

The beneficiary was the Old Globe, a San Diego nonprofit institution. "I just gave it to them, and I never asked a thing," Audrey S. Geisel, who has long been asked to give the rights to her 10-year-old son, is giving it to them. I'm suspecting the Globe theater."

For the Old Globe, the gift has kept giving. Since it started producing the show in 1998, it has raised \$100,000 annually, which the nonprofit theater uses for free tickets to first graders, a literacy program in local schools, and other projects.

When Broadway producers approached

Mrs. Geisel about mounting a new *Grinch* production in New York, she had only one when they agreed to let the Globe's artistic director, Jack O'Brien, produce it there.

Inspired in part by the interaction with Broadway, Globe staff members reworked the San Diego *Grinch* production this summer, and it starts its 10th annual run on November 25. The Broadway production's second season will start this week.

Mrs. Geisel, who attended the summer Globe workshops, says her husband, who died in 1991 at age 87, would be surprised and pleased that the story lives on. "I know about it," says Mrs. Geisel, 86, who is "Mrs. Seuss" below her legal name. "But I'm observing the emotion for him, and it is so rewarding."

Shown here are members of the cast of the San Diego version of the show.

—NOELLE BARTON

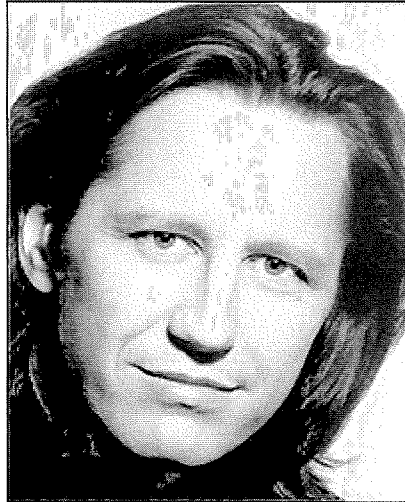
Photograph by Craig Schwartz





Who's Who: Full Cast Announced for San Diego's *Grinch* Musical

By Ernio Hernandez
20 Sep 2007



Kevin Bailey will play the Grinch at the Old Globe.

The cast has been announced for the upcoming 10th anniversary staging of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at San Diego's Old Globe.

Globe artistic director Jack O'Brien again stages the holiday musical, which will run Nov. 25-Dec. 30. Featuring book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the show officially opens Nov. 30. (The work also returns to Broadway this year following its debut last season.)

Kevin Bailey (*Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Lion King*) — who played Old Max in 2006 — will lead the California cast as the Grinch. He will be joined by Martin Van Treuren (as Old Max), James Royce Edwards (Young Max) as well as returning stars Melinda Gilb (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), James Vasquez (Grandpa Who) and Skylar Starrs Siben — who alternates in the role of Cindy-Lou Who with newcomer Gaby Greenwald.

Playing the other Who children are Alison Grace Norwood and Hannah Prater (Betty-Lou Who), Bibi Valderrama and Samantha Littleford (Annie Who), Ari Lerner and Ian Brininstool (Danny Who) as well as A.J. Foggiano and Noah Leung (Boo Who). The young actors will alternate in their roles.

The adult ensemble also includes Amy Biedel, Randall Dodge, Ron Christopher Jones, Paul Morgavo, Anise Ritchie and Sarah Sumner. Local children Maddie Shea Baldwin, Charisma McKorn, Dallas Perry, Kayla Solsbak, Kayla Stultz, Celia Tedde, Jada Temple, Ashley Twomey and Tommy Twomey round out the cast.

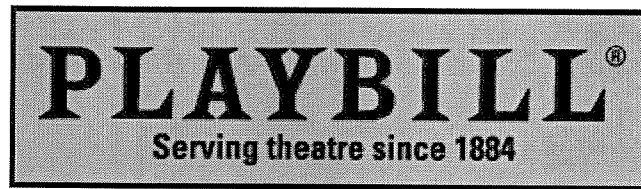
The beloved Theodor Geisel's (Dr. Seuss) holiday work set in Who-ville comes to life anew with some "major revisions," according to a previous Old Globe announcement. The additions include three songs — "This Time of Year" (a duet by Young Max and Old Max), "It's the Thought That Counts" (a full

company number) and the popular animated version's carol "Fah Who Doraze" — as well as expanded dance sections in "Whatchamawho" and a redesigned Grinch costume.

The design team features John Lee Beatty (scenic), Pat Collins (lighting), Robert Morgan (costumes) and Paul Peterson (sound). The stage managers are Leila Knox and Tracy Skoczelas.

Tickets for *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at The Old Globe go on sale Sept. 23 through (619) 234-5623. For more information visit the theatre's website at TheOldGlobe.org.

**Send questions and comments to the [Webmaster](#)
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Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Musical Goes On at Old Globe

By Ernio Hernandez
25 Nov 2007

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, the holiday-themed musical, begins its 10th anniversary staging at San Diego's Old Globe Nov. 25.

Globe artistic director Jack O'Brien again stages the holiday musical, which is scheduled to officially open Nov. 30 for a run through Dec. 30.

Featuring book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the beloved Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) holiday work set in Who-ville comes to life anew with some "major revisions," according to Old Globe notes. The additions include three songs — "This Time of Year" (a duet by Young Max and Old Max), "It's the Thought That Counts" (a full company number) and the popular animated version's carol "Fah Who Doraze" — as well as expanded dance sections in "Whatchamawho" and a redesigned Grinch costume.

Kevin Bailey (*Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Lion King*) — who played Old Max in 2006 — leads the California cast as the Grinch. He is joined by Martin Van Treuren (as Old Max), James Royce Edwards (Young Max) as well as returning stars Melinda Gilb (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), James Vasquez (Grandpa Who) and Skylar Starrs Siben — who alternates in the role of Cindy-Lou Who with newcomer Gaby Greenwald.

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The adult ensemble also includes Amy Biedel, Randall Dodge, Ron Christopher Jones, Paul Morgavo, Anise Ritchie and Sarah Sumner. Local children Maddie Shea Baldwin, Charisma McKorn, Dallas Perry, Kayla Solsbak, Kayla Stultz, Celia Tedde, Jada Temple, Ashley Twomey and Tommy Twomey round out the cast.

The design team features John Lee Beatty (scenic), Pat Collins (lighting), Robert Morgan (costumes) and Paul Peterson (sound). The stage managers are Leila Knox and Tracy Skoczelas.

Tickets for *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at The Old Globe go on sale Sept. 23 through (619) 234-5623. For more information visit the theatre's website at TheOldGlobe.org.

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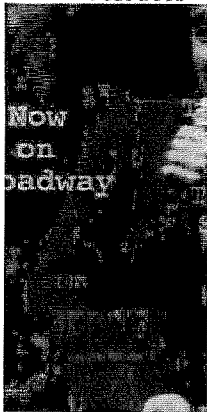
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Grinch Musical Adds New Songs for 10th Year in San Diego (and Second on Broadway)

By *Ernio Hernandez*
10 Sep 2007

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! — which returns to Broadway later this fall — will celebrate its 10th anniversary at San Diego's Old Globe with the addition of three new songs.

Globe artistic director Jack O'Brien again stages the annual holiday musical for his southern California stage, Nov. 25-Dec. 30. Featuring book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the show officially opens Nov. 30.

The beloved Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) holiday work set in Who-ville comes to life anew with some "major revisions," according to an Old Globe announcement. The additions include three songs — "This Time of Year" (a duet by Young Max and Old Max), "It's the Thought That Counts" (a full company number) and the popular animated version's carol "Fah Who Doraze" — as well as expanded dance sections in "Whatchamawho" and a redesigned Grinch costume. ("This Time of Year" and "It's the Thought That Counts" will also be incorporated into the musical's upcoming engagement at Broadway's St. James Theatre, according to a production spokesperson.)

"Over the summer Jack O'Brien and the entire original creative team came together for an intensive two-week workshop at the Globe, where they developed the new material," stated Old Globe executive director Louis G. Spisto. "Jack spent several months preparing for the workshop with the show's authors, and the time spent this summer was incredibly productive."

The show first played in 1998 and has since returned annually. "We thank Audrey Geisel (a.k.a. 'Mrs. Dr. Seuss') for her generous support of this production which has become a timeless holiday classic in the San Diego community," added Spisto. "Those who've loved the Grinch in previous years will love it even more this year; and for those who haven't experienced this classic tale live on stage, now is the time!"

Casting and further details for the San Diego run will be announced shortly.

Tickets for *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at The Old Globe go on sale Sept. 23 through (619) 234-5623. For more information visit the theatre's website at TheOldGlobe.org.

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SEP 17 2007

Grinch Is Singing New Tune This Holiday Season at the Old Globe

Birch Aquarium Schedules Wyland to Kick Off Campaign

It appears that retailers have finally managed to roll Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hanukkah into one big festival this year, giving equal opportunity shelving to all décor at once. No waiting required.

Now if only someone would figure out how to turn orange lights red, folks who climb up on ladders to string lights for Halloween and then Christmas could reduce their chances of falling off by 50 percent.

If that sounds Grinch-like, the real Grinch has a new tune this year, a few actually.

The 10th anniversary production of San Diego's premier holiday event, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" will feature a number of major revisions, including three new songs. The new songs are a duet between "Young Max" and "Old Max" titled "This Time of Year," a full company number, "It's the Thought That Counts," and a carol, "Gah Who Doraze."

The Grinch's costume will also be redesigned for the show, scheduled to run from Nov. 25 through Dec. 30 at the Old Globe.

"The 10th year celebration gave us the opportunity for the Globe to make these exciting improvements and give the show new life as it celebrates a decade in San Diego," said Executive Director Louis Spisto. "Over the summer Jack O'Brien and the entire original creative team came together for an intensive two-week workshop at the Globe, where they developed the new material."

O'Brien is the Old Globe's artistic director.

The Globe has performed the family favorite to more than 350,000 children and adults since 1998.

Individual tickets go on sale at 10 a.m.



TOURISM

Connie Lewis

Sept. 23 and will be available by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE, on the Globe's Web site at www.TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the box office on Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Prices range from \$39 to \$59 for adults and \$19 to \$31 for children, ages 3 to 17.

The Grinch has also gone bicoastal. The sold-out musical, which drew critical and popular acclaim during its first run on Broadway last year, is scheduled for Nov. 1 through Jan. 8 at the St. James Theatre.

For contact information on these shows, please cross reference with accompanying directory. For more Playbill listings, go to www.utstreet.com

THEATER/OPERA

CRITIC'S CHOICE

"Cry-Baby" It's no "Hairspray," and the second act steadily deflates. But this new John Waters' re-do has great, irony-drenched lyrics, choreography as good as it gets, and a lunatic stalker whose solo is already local legend. Broadway awaits, if the generic book and characters find their comedic hearts. *Closes Dec. 16. Mandell Weiss Theatre. (Welsh)*

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" The Globe's best Grinch yet – Kevin Bailey – celebrates the show's 10th anniversary. The show's been retooled with three new songs, a couple of new set pieces, and a few changes to the book. More than cosmetic, the makeover turns what had been a modest play with music into something closer to a full-scale musical comedy for kids and adults alike. *Closes Dec. 30. The Old Globe. (Welsh)*

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" Frank Capra's holiday chestnut gets a vibrant and yes, touching makeover. It's Christmas Eve, 1947 and the cast of the Lux Playhouse of the Air comes to full-blooded life at Cygnet. With singing, sound effects and Tom Andrew as decent, plain-spoken George Bailey, the show pierces this irony-clad age that's traded Jimmy Stewart as a cultural icon for that other Stewart named Jon. *Closes Dec. 30. Cygnet Theatre. (Welsh)*

LONG RUNNING

"Triple Espresso" This highly-caffeinated

comedy is about three guys, a coffee house and an utter lack of common sense. *Through Feb. 17. Horton Grand Theatre.*

"When There's a Will...There's a Wake!" Mystery Cafe Dinner Theater brings back the days of the old speakeasies with this gangster, game and dame-filled production. *Imperial House Restaurant.*

RUNNING

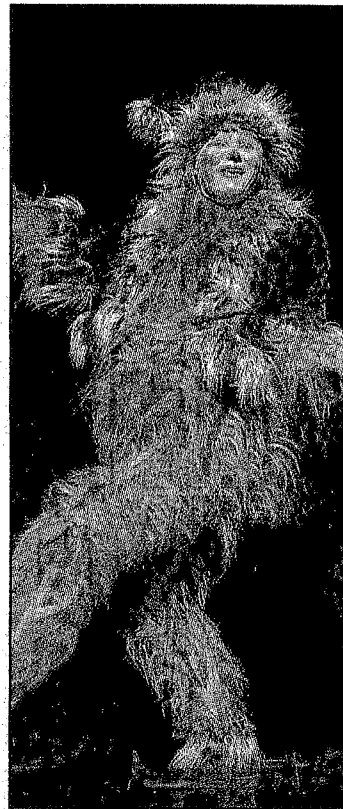
"A Christmas Carol!" An adaptation of the classic Charles Dickens' novel. *Previews Wednesday and Dec. 13. Opens Dec. 14; closes Dec. 30. North Coast Repertory Theatre.*

"A Christmas Carol: Not-so-Tiny Tim's Great Big Musical!" Ruff Yeager's riff on Dickens' perennial "A Christmas Carol" starts off well enough. But what begins as an ironic, almost sophisticated look at actors and their roles, becomes a rehash of the Scrooge story set in San Diego. Fred Harlow, Ria Carey and especially John Martin as a smarmy TV host provide some fun amidst the silliness. *Closes Dec. 23. 6th @ Penn Theatre. (Welsh)*

"A Christmas Story" A radio-style reading based on the 1983 classic comedic film. *Opens tomorrow; closes Dec. 16. OnStage Playhouse.*

"Christmas is Comin' Uptown" Common Ground Theatre presents a musical based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." In this version, Scrooge is a Harlem slumlord. *Closes Dec. 16. WorldBeat Cultural Center in Balboa Park.*

Cirque Eloize's "Rain" With a little rain, nostalgic memories bloom and the performers evoke the innocence and fearlessness of child's play through acrobatic feats. *Closes Sunday. Civic Theatre.*



A GOOD GRINCH

Kevin Bailey is the newly attired best-Grinch-yet in the Old Globe's retooled 10th anniversary production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" *Craig Schwartz*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

DEC - - 2007

SDJJ | what's going on

by eileen sondak

december delights

THE HOLIDAY SEASON FEATURES A CORNUCOPIA OF CHILD-FRIENDLY ENTERTAINMENT, INCLUDING LOCAL STAGINGS OF "THE NUTCRACKER," AND A SPECIAL 10th ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION OF THE DR. SEUSS CLASSIC, "HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS." THIS YEAR, THE MIX EVEN INCLUDES ONE MUSICAL THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS ("HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL") – AND THAT SHOW IS BOUND TO BE ONE OF THE HOTTEST TICKETS OF THE SEASON, AT LEAST WITH THE TEEN AND TWEEN CROWD.

"High School Musical" is one of two family events due at the Civic Theater this month, thanks to Broadway-San Diego. The other is "Cirque Eloize: Rain" (a spectacular melange of movement, visual effects, and magical feats).

"Disney's High School Musical" will make its all-too-brief stop at the Civic Theater Dec. 26 – 30. The national touring show features two San Diego natives – Chandra Lee Schwartz as Sharpay Evans and Ellen Harvey as the drama teacher in this Disney extravaganza. All the familiar songs are back, plus two new ones. The company features a cast of 34 and a live orchestra. Your kids won't want to miss this San Diego debut, which also stars Arielle Jacobs and Lizzie Weiss.

The Globe's zany production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is celebrating a decade in San Diego with three new songs and other updates.

Among the talented youngsters in this year's version of the classic is Ari Lerner as Danny Who.

The Globe will repeat its exciting Family Experience on Dec. 2. If your kids ever attended this fun-filled luncheon and activity day at Who-Ville (the rehearsal space near the theater), you know what a delight it is. Among the highlights of this interactive event are craft projects, a puppet show, and entertainment by the "Grinch" cast.

"The Nutcracker"

season starts on Dec. 1 and 2 with California Ballet's "Nutcracker" – the longest playing production of the holiday ballet in San Diego. You can see this full-length "Nutcracker" at Poway Center for the Performing Arts, and again on Dec. 15, when a more lavish spectacle (accompanied by live music from the San Diego Symphony) takes over the Civic Theater until Dec. 23.

City Ballet's version of the holiday bon bon is slated for Dec. 7 - 16 at the Spreckels Theater. City's "Nutcracker" will be danced to the music of the City Ballet Orchestra, conducted by John Nettles. You can also enjoy lunch with the Sugar Plum Fairy and her friends on both Saturdays at the Bristol Hotel. What a thrilling event for the youngsters.

The La Jolla Playhouse's premiere production of "Cry-Baby" will continue at the Mandell Weiss Theater through Dec. 16. This musical version of a cult film by John Waters has a rockabilly, doo-wop, and jailhouse rock score – and it's very funny. But don't expect a gentle nostalgia piece. "Cry-Baby" is raucous and contains adult language and situations.

The Diversionary Theater's production of "Torch Song Trilogy" (a play by Harvey Fierstein that took Broadway by storm and won the Tony for Best Play) continues through Dec. 16. Dan Kirsch, Artistic

■ **T h e
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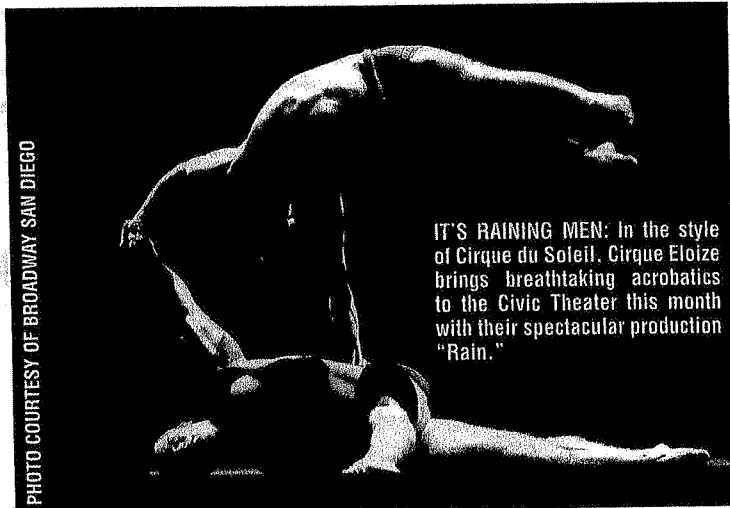


PHOTO COURTESY OF BROADWAY SAN DIEGO

IT'S RAINING MEN: In the style of Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Eloize brings breathtaking acrobatics to the Civic Theater this month with their spectacular production "Rain."



COURTESY OF THE SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

Director of Diversionary called it a "happy coincidence" that Fierstein was still at the Globe launching his "Catered Affair," when "Torch Song" was rehearsing. One of the first Broadway shows with a major gay theme, "Torch Song" is starring Matthew Weeden in the role Fierstein wrote for himself. G. Scott

Series, so bring the kids and enjoy the pre-concert activities, including the musical petting zoo. The La Jolla Music Society is presenting cellist Zuill Bailey in a program that includes Beethoven and Elgar's Cello Concerto (piano reduction). The concert is slated for

Lacy directs the show.

The San Diego Symphony will perform Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the San Diego Master Chorale Dec. 7 - 9. Jahja Ling will conduct the orchestra.

The Holiday Pops series returns on Dec. 19 - 23 with Matthew Gabbett conducting a celebration of the season. The Master Chorale will be there for these concerts as well. The matinee on Dec. 23 will be part of the Family Festival

Dec. 2 at the Neurosciences Institute. On Dec. 16, the Center will host the San Diego Chamber Orchestra with Jung-Ho Pak on the podium, for a performance of Handel's Messiah. The Center's museum will present four new exhibitions through the end of January. They include Rituality, Niki de Saint Phalle's "A Spiritual Path," and two others that explore Mexican Myth.

The J*Company Youth Theater is giving kids and their parents a trip to Disney's "Jungle Book" from Dec. 6 - 16. The musical (adapted from the beloved film) includes jungle rhythms and colorful characters.

The San Diego Museum of Art is featuring an exhibition titled, Everett Gee Jackson/San Diego Modern 1920 - 1955. The show includes more than 50 works from the artist's most productive years. The museum is still showcasing a cutting-edge exhibition of contemporary art animation that includes hand-made and traditional animated drawings, as well as digital images.

The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition is winding down its extended stay at the Museum of Natural History. This show represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the most comprehensive Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition ever created. It features 27 scrolls, 10 of which have never been seen before. These 2,000-year-old treasures from antiquity represent the greatest archeological find of the 20th century, so don't miss it this month.

Meanwhile, the nearby Museum of Man, features a related exhibition - "Journey to the Copper Age: Pre-Biblical Archeology in the Holy Land," a fascinating show that includes many other important archeological relics from the Holy Land. Its days in San Diego are numbered as well. ✪

BEST BETS

BY JULIA BEESON & PHYLLIS DeBLANCHE



CRAIG SCHWARZ

The Green Grump in the Park ^

The deliciously grumpy Grinch rides again in Balboa Park, stealing scenes and causing chortles in the Old Globe Theatre's 10th-anniversary production of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, on the main stage November 25-December 30. 619-234-5623; theoldglobe.org.

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
SD Union Tribune

DEC - 6 2007



A GOOD GRINCH

Kevin Bailey is the newly attired best-Grinch-yet in the Old Globe's retooled 10th anniversary production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" *Craig Schwartz*



11/25 to 12/30
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

11/25 to 12/30
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
The Old Globe
619-23-GLOBE

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Nov. 18, 1890: The Congregationalists formed an organization with 11 members to start the first church in Chula Vista.

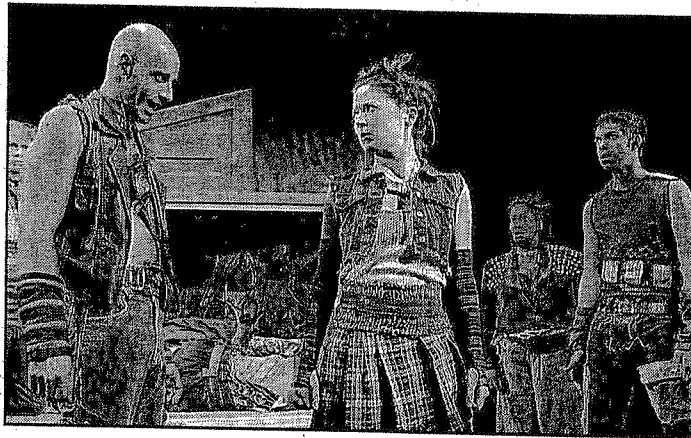
Nov. 18, 2006: Bloomingdale's department store opened at Fashion Valley in the former Robinsons-May location.

Nov. 19, 1885: Elisha S. Babcock Jr. and Hampton L. Story bought land then known as the Peninsula of San Diego, which included both Coronado and North Island, for \$110,000.

Nov. 19, 1993: The longest criminal trial ever in San Diego Superior Court ended when Dale Akiki was found not guilty of abusing children at Faith Chapel Sunday school.

Nov. 20, 1998: Vice Adm. Dennis McGinn became the 20th commander of the 3rd Fleet.

Nov. 21, 1941: The first USO club in San Diego opened at Seventh Avenue and E Street downtown.



Nov. 19, 2006: Moxie Theatre opened its second season with the world premiere of Liz Duffy Adams' "Wet or, Isabella the Pirate Queen Enters the Horse Latitudes."

Nov. 21, 1984: Minmin and Rongrong, two rare golden monkeys from China, went on exhibit at the San Diego Zoo.

Nov. 21, 1993: Mexican shoppers boycotted San Diego businesses Nov. 20-21 to protest U.S. immigration policies.

Nov. 22, 1985: The Feld Ballet of New York made its San Diego debut with two performances Nov. 22-23 at the Civic Theater.

Nov. 22, 1986: The fledgling Sledgehammer Theater, previously based at UCSD, moved its production of Sam Shepard's

"Action" into the San Diego Rep's Sixth Avenue Playhouse.

Nov. 22, 1998: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" opened at the Old Globe Theatre. The Globe's first holiday show featured Guy Paul in the title role and sets by John Lee Beatty.

Nov. 23, 1882: Richard O'Neill sold the 133,000-acre Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores to James Flood of San Francisco for \$450,000.

Nov. 23, 1917: The 135th Aero Squadron left Rockwell Field on North Island for duty overseas, with Capt. R.W. Facett in command.

Nov. 24, 1947: The \$14 million San Diego Aqueduct was completed. Initially intended to supply the Navy, the aqueduct brought Colorado River water from Riverside County to the San Vicente Reservoir near Lakeside.

Library researcher **Merrie Monteagudo** compiled this report.

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SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
The San Diego
Bottomline
NOV - 2 2007

UPCOMING

Old Globe Theatre ***How the Grinch Stole Christmas!***

San Diego's premiere holiday event, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* is back at the Globe for a 10th incredible year! The 10th anniversary production will feature a number of major revisions, including three new songs, a redesigned costume for the Grinch, and many fun changes to the book of this beloved musical. Launched in 1998, the Globe has performed this family favorite year after year, having played to over 350,000 children and adults. "Now in its 10th wonderful year at the Globe, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has established a permanent place in the hearts of San Diegans," said Globe Executive Director Louis G. Spisto. "We thank Audrey Geisel (a.k.a. "Mrs. Dr. Seuss") for her generous support of this production which has become a timeless holiday classic in the San Diego community. Those who've loved the Grinch in previous years will love it even more this year; and for those who haven't experienced this classic tale live on stage, now is the time!" Tickets are now on sale and will be available by phone at 619.23.GLOBE and on the Globe website at TheOldGlobe.org

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Del Mar Village Voice

NOV - 8 2007

Tickets on sale now for this year's Old Globe 'Grinch'

Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch of the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe are pleased to present the 10th anniversary production of San Diego's premiere holiday event, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!," book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin,

and directed by Jack O'Brien, playing Nov. 25 – Dec. 30.

Individual tickets are available by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE, on the Globe Web site at www.TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59 for adults and from \$19 to \$31 for children (3-17 years).

**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Carmel Valley News**

SEP 27 2007

Tickets on sale for Old Globe 'Grinch'

The Old Globe will present the 10th anniversary production of San Diego's premiere holiday event "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!," playing Nov. 25 - Dec. 30.

Individual tickets go on sale Sunday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. and will be available by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE, on the Globe Web site at www.TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59 for adults and from \$19 to \$31 for children (3-17 years).

**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Rancho Santa Fe
Review**

OCT - 4 2007

**Tickets on sale Sept.
23 for this year's Old
Globe 'Grinch'**

The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present the 10th anniversary production of San Diego's premiere holiday event, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!," playing Nov. 25 - Dec. 30.

Individual tickets are available by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE, on the Globe Web site at www.TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59 for adults and from \$19 to \$31 for children (3-17 years).

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Rancho Bernardo
Journal

NOV 29 2007



EVERGREEN — Skylar Starrs-Siben and Jay Goede in The Old Globe's annual holiday production of Dr. Seuss' 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas,' directed by Jack O'Brien with music by Mel Marvin. The show plays in the Old Globe Theatre through Dec. 30. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Los Angeles Times

DEC - 2 2007

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS DOWN SOUTH

Here are some other San Diego holiday events that you might want to mark on your calendar:

■ **Westgate Hotel Teddy Bear Teas** (1055 Second Ave., San Diego, www.westgatehotel.com): 2:30 to 5 p.m. Dec. 9, 15, 16, 21, 23 and 24. Children accompanied by an adult can bring a teddy bear for tea or to share sweet treats and storytelling. The afternoon is culminated by a visit from Santa. The price is \$34 per person, \$22 for children under 12.

■ **Spreckels Organ Concert Holiday Sing-along** (Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park, www.sandiego.gov): 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23. The admission to this

event is free.

■ **Port of San Diego Big Bay Balloon Parade** (San Diego County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, www.thebigbay.com): 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27. More than 30 balloons will float along the 1-mile parade route, and a family festival will follow the event. Admission is free, while grandstand seating costs \$15.

■ **"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas"** (Balboa Park, www.theoldglobe.org): Through Dec. 30. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59 for adults and from \$19 to \$31 for children (3-17 years).

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
North County T.
Escondido**

DEC - 2 2007

◆ **"Grinch Family Experience" —**

The Old Globe hosts a special one-on-one event for children ages 4 to 12 that includes hands-on theater activities, crafts, buffet lunch, special seating and a performance of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas"; 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; *Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego*; \$100-\$150 (VIP package is \$175-\$300); (619) 231-1941, Ext. 2317.



**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Rancho Santa Fe
Review**

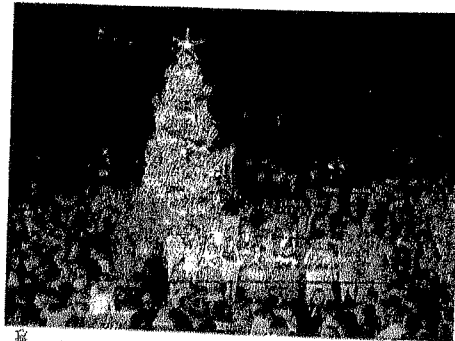
SEP 20 2007

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**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
SD Family Magazine**

NOV - - 2007




★ **Christmas Tree Lighting at The Globe.**
See a one-of-a-kind tree, watch a live performance by the cast of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and revel in a holiday snowfall. Tonight, 6 pm. Free. Tickets for this event available through Star 94.1 Radio. Also available to those who purchase tickets to today's 4:30 pm show. Globe Plaza, Balboa Park.
www.theoldglobe.org; 619-231-1941.

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
North County Times
Escondido

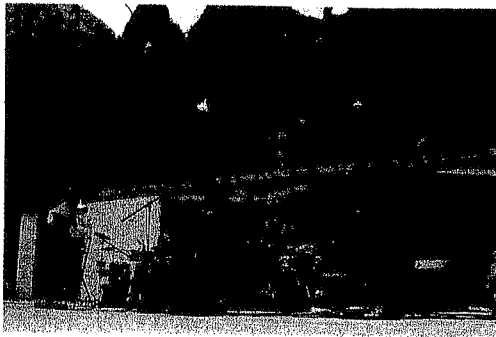
NOV 1 1 2007

'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas'



■ The Old Globe Theatre's upcoming holiday production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" will feature several North County youngsters, including: Skylar Starrs Siben of San Marcos and Gaby Greenwald of Carmel Valley in separate casts as Cindy-Lou Who; Alison Grace Norwood of Carmel Valley as Betty-Lou Who; and Ashley and Tommy Twomey of 4S Ranch, part of the children's ensemble.

The show will run Nov. 25 through Dec. 30 at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego's Balboa Park. Tickets range from \$39 to \$59 for adults, and from \$19 to \$31 for children 3 to 17 years old. For more ticket information and a complete performance schedule, go to www.theoldglobe.org/on_stage/schedule_Grinch_2007.html.



Entertainment at the Borrego Days Desert Festival.

classes by award-winning chefs, and an elegant Reserve Tasting at one of San Diego's finest hotels. The San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival is the largest wine and culinary event in Southern California and nationally recognized by wine and food enthusiasts, media, chefs and winemakers alike.

The 10th anniversary production of San Diego's premiere holiday event, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, will be held at the Old Globe Theatre November 25 - December 30, 2007. The production will kick off with the second annual **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**, on Sunday, November 25 at 6:00 p.m. on the Globe Plaza. The ceremony will kick-off the holiday season in conjunction with the presentation of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Designed by Grinch scenic designer John Lee Beatty, this unique tree will be built in the center of the Globe Plaza and remain for the run of the show. This fun family event will feature a special live performance by members of the Grinch cast, and a delightful holiday snowfall on the Globe Plaza.

In Encinitas, Quail Botanical Gardens lights up the holiday season during the month of December with the spectacular **Garden of Lights** celebration. The annual event is an extravaganza of more than 100,000 sparkling lights, which illuminate the Gardens and turn them into a dazzling winter wonderland. Festivities include family-friendly activities, including horse-drawn-wagon rides, crafts for children, marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, live music, hot mulled wine and refreshments.

No matter what your favorite activity is in San Diego, make sure to get out and celebrate the new season. Rather than spending your time trying to get ready for the holidays, try to live in the moment and take some time for yourself. Taking care of your health now will assure you can enjoy the many local activities that take us through to the New Year! **B**

Seasonal Events in San Diego

Borrego Days Desert Festival

Friday, October 26 - Sunday, October 28
Visit the desert when it's under 116 degrees.
www.borrego-springs.org

San Diego Oktoberfest and 5K Run

Sunday, October 28 - Tuesday, October 30
Get a second helping of sauerkraut at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.
www.oktoberfestatdelmar.com

Moscow Ballet Presents The Nutcracker

November 13, 7:30 p.m.
San Diego Civic Theatre
(619) 220-8497
www.nutcracker.com

Jersey Boys

San Diego Civic Theatre
October 18 - November 11
(888) 937-8995
www.broadwaysd.com

Thanksgiving Dixieland Jazz Festival

Wednesday, November 21 - Sunday, November 25
Jazzing up the Town & Country Convention Center in Mission Valley.
www.dixielandjazzfestival.org

Quail Gardens Garden of Lights

December 7-9, 13-23, 26-30
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas
www.qbgardens.org

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

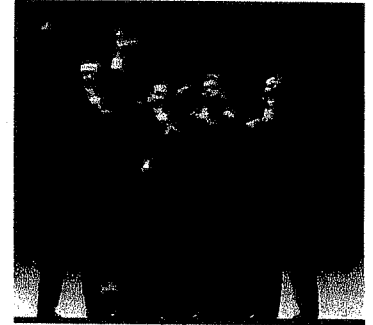
November 25 - December 30
Old Globe Theatre
(619) 23-GLOBE
www.theoldglobe.org

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, November 25, 6:00 p.m.
Old Globe Plaza
www.theoldglobe.org

The San Diego Bay Parade of Lights

Sundays, December 9 and December 16
The theme for this year's parade of twinkling boats is "Yo Ho Ho ... A Pirate's Christmas!"
www.sdparadeoflights.org



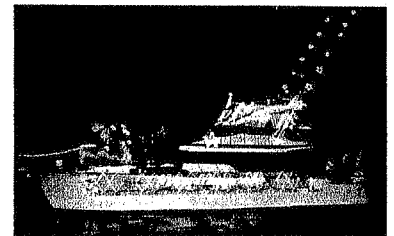
The Jersey Boys at The Civic



The Grinch



The Old Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony



The San Diego Bay Parade of Lights

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
The San Diego
Bottomline
NOV 16 2007

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25

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

San Diego's premiere holiday event, Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, is back at the Globe for a 10th incredible year. The 10th anniversary production will feature a number of major revisions, including three new songs, a redesigned costume for the Grinch, and many fun changes to the book of this beloved musical. Tickets available by phone at 619.23.GLOBE, on the Globe website at TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59 for adults and from \$19 to \$31 for children (3-17 years). For more information visit theoldglobe.org or call 619.234.5623.

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Daily Transcript

NOV 23 2007

Grinch returns for 10th season
The Old Globe will celebrate the opening of the 10th season of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with its second annual tree-lighting ceremony. The celebration will begin 5 p.m. Saturday at the Old Globe Plaza before the 8 p.m. opening of the show. The Seuss musical will run through Dec. 30.
For more information, call (619) 231-1941 or visit theoldglobe.org.

FRIDAY
November 23, 2007


THE SAN DIEGO
UNION-TRIBUNE



THEATER: YOU KNOW WHO

He's back, the guy who shows what it truly means to "return gifts." The Grinch's growth experience puts the heart in "Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*" at the Old Globe Sunday to Dec. 30. Visit theoldglobe.org.



Thursday, December 20, 2007

editor@sddt.com

http://www.sddt.com

Source Code: 20071220tbi

Special events, hours tailored for holiday season

By KATHLEEN DOWLING

Thursday, December 20, 2007

The San Diego Symphony's Winter Pops Holiday Pops Concert celebrates the holidays with performances that began Thursday and will continue through the weekend. Sunday's performance will be a family festival concert where Santa and Mrs. Claus will make a guest appearance. Performances, conducted by Matthew Garbutt, will feature Mariachi Champana Nevin, soprano Monica Abrego as well as the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet and the San Diego Master Chorale.

The San Diego Natural History Museum has extended its display of the Dead Sea Scrolls through Jan. 6, so there are additional opportunities to see the 15 featured scrolls, including the Ten Commandments and the Copper Scroll.

Though the museum will be closed Christmas Day, it has also extended its hours through Jan. 6. Today through Sunday, the museum will be open 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the museum will be open 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., and Dec. 26-Jan. 6 (except for New Year's Eve) the museum will be open 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. For each of the days, the last ticket will be sold an hour-and-a-half prior to the museum's closing.

This weekend is the last weekend to view California Ballet's Nutcracker at the San Diego Civic Theatre. The performances run through Sunday. The New Village Arts Theatre will also close its run of its holiday show, "Off the Ground," Sunday.

The Old Globe has added an extra performance of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" 11 a.m. Dec. 29. The performance for that afternoon, which was scheduled to start 2 p.m., will now begin 2:30 p.m. in order to make time for the additional show.

Many of the county's attractions will be open for abbreviated hours Christmas Eve. Christmas Day will be quieter, with fewer open attractions, but Seaport Village and Sea World will be open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., The San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and LEGOLAND from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Fleet Science Center will be open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Daily Transcript

DEC 21 2007

Special events, hours tailored for holiday season



Art Facts

By Kathleen
Dowling

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kathleen.dowling@sddt.com
Source Code: 20071220thi

AFTER
HOURS

▶ MUST DO ◀

1 Paradise is found at the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts. Now through January 13, the exhibition **Picturing Eden** examines the many facets of paradise, from a place of contemplation and restoration to a site of loneliness. The exhibition is presented in four sections: Paradise Lost, Paradise Reconstructed, Despairing of Paradise, and Paradise Anew. The exhibition includes work by more than 30 artists, including Michael Kenna, Sally Mann, Han Nguyen, and Doug and Mike Starn. Tickets are \$4 to \$6. www.mopa.org

2 The hottest reality show of the summer season is about to become so real you'll be able to see perspiration glistening on the faces of your favorite dancers. From the makers of *American Idol*, **So You Think You Can Dance?** is coming to the San Diego Sports Arena, bringing with them the top competitors of season three. Of course, you'll have to get off the couch and out of the house, but sometimes you just have to suffer for your art (or someone else's). The show begins at 8 p.m. on November 19. Tickets are \$35 to \$54.50. www.fox.com/dance

3 Work off those extra pounds to make room for some more. Join Nike Bike Kayak San Diego for its annual **Thanksgiving Day Paddle** in La Jolla November 22 at 10 a.m. After a fun two-hour kayak tour in La Jolla, you can sit down for your Thanksgiving dinner guilt free! Contact Nike Bike Kayak to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$40 to \$50 per person. www.hikebikelayak.com

4 Enjoy the classics at the Cygnet Theatre presentation of *It's a Wonderful Life*, performed as a radio show before a live studio audience. Inspired by the classic American film, the show is performed by a versatile cast of actors who perform the dozens of characters in the radio play to live sound effects and festive holiday music. The show runs from November 23 to December 30, and tickets are \$22 to \$31. www.cygnettheatre.com

5 In case you have missed it the past 35 years, the **San Diego Harbor Parade of Lights** gives you two chances to catch it this year. This colorful event happens December 9 and 16 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and celebrates the holiday season by dressing up local boats in strands of flickering lights and parading them through the harbor to the delight of all who watch. For boaters, a good viewing area is where the parade route turns for Coronado, near the 10th Avenue Terminal. For landlubbers, try the north or south ends of the Embarcadero. www.sdparadeoflights.org

6 Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, back for its 10th joyous year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that once again jumps right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the Old Globe Theatre stage. Come take part in the fun as the Globe is transformed into snow-covered Who-ville right down to the last can of Who-hash! Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59 for adults and from \$19 to \$31 for children (3-17 years). November 25 to December 30. www.theoldglobe.com **FAMILY WINDLER**

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
International Times

DEC 1 6 2007



The Old Globe

1363 Old Globe Wy., Balboa Park, San Diego. 上演... 12/30まで。16, 23, 27 & 29: 2 & 7:30p, 18-21 & 28: 7:30p, 22: 11a, 2:30 & 7:30p, 24 & 30: 1 & 5:30p。チケット... \$39-59 (一般)、\$19-31 (3-17歳)。☎ 619-23-GLOBE。 www.theoldglobe.com

How the
Grinch Stole
Christmas!

グリンチはどうやってクリスマスを盗んだか!

世界一クリスマスを愛する町フーヴィルに住む気難し屋のグリンチ。ホリデーシーズンの到来に浮き立つ町を忌々しげに眺めています。意地悪な笑みを浮かべたグリンチはサンタの衣装に身を包んで町へ…。でも、本当はグリンチはクリスマスが大嫌いなのだ! Dr. スースのクラシック絵本を原作とする児童向けミュージカル。The Old Globeでは上演 10 季目、ホリデーの定番としてすっかり定着しました。上演期間中、Globe 全体が雪のフーヴィルに…。雰囲気満点の人気ステージです。

Two Christmas classics and a premiere

by Jean Lowerison

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas

A decade after that Christmas-and-Who-hating Grinch first raged across the Old Globe Theatre stage, the old meanie has gotten a makeover, with a hairier costume that looks like rancid seaweed and – ready for this? – pixie boots.

Jack O'Brien's production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* has since gone on to Broadway, where a judge recently ordered it to go on despite the striking stagehands. But the Grinch and his friends have never left San Diego, where they've become a fixture on the local Christmas scene. This year's show plays through Dec. 30 on the Old Globe stage, now directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein.

In honor of the 10th anniversary, the show has been spiffed up with three new songs and an expanded dance sequence by Bob Richard. The show opens with the carol "Welcome Christmas (Fah Who Doraze)," from the animated Grinch film. "This Time of Year," a duet for Old and Young Max (Martin Van Treuren and James Royce Edwards) is a sprightly comedy number. "It's the Thought That Counts," (replacing "Last Minute Shopping") is a full company number done in rotating duets and trios about the joys and horrors of Christmas shopping. And this year the audience gets to sing along with "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch." Even the orchestrations sound different – fuller and, well, a little more strange.

Playing the Grinch this year is last year's Old Max, Kevin Bailey, cutting a



Skylar Starrs Siben as Cindy-Lou Who (Red Cast) and Kevin Bailey as the Grinch in The Old Globe's 2007 production of 'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas'

hilarious figure as he grumps around the stage, plotting the demise of Christmas and explaining to Mama Who (the always-delightful Melinda Gilb) that he's "from Whoston."

The kids' parts are double cast. Skylar Starrs Siben, the Cindy-Lou Who I saw, is absolutely winning, and she shares a great stage moment with the Grinch as she attempts to soften the famous heart that's two sizes too small. As she prepares to sing "Santa for a Day," the Grinch turns his eyes heavenward and deadpans, "Oh no! It's a ballad!"

Let's face it, no matter what they do with it, the Grinch is a winner.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas plays through Dec. 30 at the Old Globe Theatre. Shows Tuesday

through Sunday at 7:30; matinees Saturday and Sunday at various times. For tickets call 619-23-GLOBE or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.



The cast of The Old Globe's 2007 production of 'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas'

DEC 13 2007

A favorite show of the year is back



Skylar Starrs-Siben and Kevin Bailey star in *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*. Photo credit: Craig Schwartz

by Diana Saenger

Returning to the Old Globe in its entire holiday splendor is *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* The show is now playing at the Globe Theater in Balboa Park through December 30. Launched in 1998, the Globe has performed this family favorite year after year, having played to more than 350,000 children and adults.

With a book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin, and directed by Jack O'Brien, the tenth annual production features a number of major revisions, including three new songs. Other changes to the show include expanded dance sections in the children's song, "Whatchamawho," a redesigned costume for the Grinch, and many significant changes to the book of this beloved musical.

No stranger to roles at the Old Globe (Max last year and many national roles) Kevin Bailey returns to the show as the Grinch and recently chatted with the Gazette about the show.

"I was very fortunate last year to play Max, but I yearned to play Grinch – a villainous cad with a deep baritone voice," said Bailey. "It's really great to have some fun while playing an iconic bad guy that becomes good."

Iconic is right. Who hasn't heard of The Grinch? "It's hard to image anyone in this country who hasn't," said Bailey. "And I couldn't be happier with this cast. They are all just wonderful."

While some actors shy away from acting with kids, Bailey embraces the idea. "I love it. They provide a great reality check on stage. For me its one great big family."

Can starring in a show that's done again and again be challenging to make the role your own?

"Yes," said Bailey. "I try to make it different, and asked myself, 'What can I bring to The Grinch? besides new actors in different parts, the new show songs, new costumes and new production elements.'"

Patrons will find out when they see the show. A. J. Fogiano of El Cajon, Dallas Perry of Santee and Lakeside's Kayla Solsbak represent East County kids who have a role in The Grinch.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Now – December 30, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park, tickets 619) 23-GLOBE, on the Globe website at www.TheOldGlobe.org.

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
La Jolla Village News

DEC 27 2007

Stages of Christmas: 'Life' and 'Grinch'

By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE | VILLAGE NEWS

Through Dec. 30: Cygnet Theatre (6663 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego) presents its second annual production of Joe Landry's "It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play." The stage work with music is an adaptation of the 1946 Frank Capra film classic, which starred Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, a small-town guy with a huge wanderlust and a big heart. Playing the role for the second year, Tom Andrews seems in some moments to channel Stewart, but he has great depth of feeling and appeal of his own. Each portrayal has deepened, in fact. The exceptionally droll Scott Paulson, Foley artist, leader of the Teeny Tiny Pit Orchestra and producer of UCSD's annual Toy Piano Festival, returns to provide sound effects. Jonathan Dunn-Rankin, a former San Diego radio broadcaster and longtime theatrical presence, plays the broadcast announcer and numerous additional roles, and the charming David Gallagher portrays Bailey's guardian angel. Trevor Hollingsworth and Shane Simmons round out the male contingent. Melissa Fernandez and Veronica Murphy return as the town's distaff, and Brenda Dodge joins Cygnet's cohesive ensemble (directed by Sean Murray) as George's wife. The audience response Nov. 29 was vociferous. This warm and pleasing show is bound to become a favorite Christmas tradition, folks. For tickets and information, visit



PHOTO BY CRAIG SCHWARTZ

Kevin Bailey is the Grinch (center) with the Who Children in the Old Globe's 2007 production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" through Dec 30.

www.cygnettheatre.com or call (619) 337-1525.

Through Dec. 30: The Old Globe (1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park) presents an updated "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" with three new songs, a new Grinch (Broadway veteran, musically perfect Kevin Bailey) and an outstanding Old Max (Broadway veteran Martin Van Treuren). The tenth anniversary production also welcomes the return of many who created roles in the original Globe production, including Melinda Gilb, who was the original Mama Who, and veteran Papa Who Steve Gunderson. Van Treuren and James Royce Edwards (Young Max) sing one of

the new songs, "This Time of Year," and the other two new numbers are ensemble pieces: a carol from the animated film titled "Fah Who Doraze," and the amusing "It's the Thought That Counts." The Grinch has a new costume and new, green facial makeup, but the best part is Bailey's well-employed singing voice, with which he manages everything from bass-baritone growls to a simpatico pianissimo in his duet with opening night's adorable Cindy-Lou Who, fourth-grader Gaby Greenwald, who doesn't miss a beat. Surely, this is San Diego's (and now New York's) established tradition. Tickets are available on-line at www.theoldglobe.com or by calling (619) 23-GLOBE. ■

SWEET TREATS OF NOSTALGIA

Holiday shows deliver the goods

BY JEFF BRITTON

You're A Mean One...

Size does matter. It's a lesson learned in Dr. Seuss' *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*, in which the titular monster finally learns to embrace the Yuletide holiday once his too-small heart grows three times its size overnight.

Now in its 10th year at the Old Globe Theatre and its second on Broadway, the musical is that rare theatrical oddity with equal appeal to adults and children. Perhaps some adults in the audience were just being devoted parents, while others came to revel in the nostalgia of the beloved book and classic 30-minute CBS cartoon version.

At an easily palatable 75 minutes, the one-act show—tightly directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein with fidelity to Jack O'Brien's original concept—is the perfect length to keep everybody entertained.

Much of the credit for this goes to the slightly campy Kevin Bailey, who has deepened his characterization of the Grinch into the kind of guy you love to hate, and yet love with empathy at the same time. Buried beneath a ton of makeup and green fur, Bailey has an uncanny connection with the audience through a commanding stage presence.

Everyone can find endearing both versions of the Grinch's put-upon dog, Max: Martin van Treuren as Old Max who narrates the tale, and the adorable James Royce Edwards as Young Max, who tries to stop the Grinch from destroying the Whos' Christmas by stealing their trees, their presents and their food. Bah, humbug personifies the Grinch's nature as he slithers and dances through several snappy musical numbers.

Despite its simplicity, the show has a high-tech, Broadway feel that gives it visual excitement, like the cartoon-inspired sets by John Lee Beatty and Robert Morgan's whimsical costumes that make the actors seem uniformly elfin.

For those who have seen the show before, this year's production sports three new songs by Timothy Mason which gives it a more seamless qual-

ity, while also making it seem more like a full-scale Broadway musical. The rhyming story remains, enchanting all with its clever couplets.

But next to Bailey, the enormously talented young Skylar Starrs Siben knocks them dead as Cindy-Lou Who, with a sweet, pure voice that Mama Rose would have been proud of. The rest of the cast is just as spot-on in their portrayals and their singing. Even more than size, professionalism does matter.

Sappy, Wonderful Shades of Jimmy Stewart

Turn back the clock to the 1940s and set the dial for a double dose of holiday nostalgia. Cygnet Theatre's radio play version of *It's A Wonderful Life* is a refreshing new spin on a traditional favorite, the film starring James Stewart.

The show harkens back to the golden age of radio when families gathered together for inspirational broadcasts and wholesome entertainment. Cleverly conceived and drawn directly from the enduring Capra film, savvy studio actors employ their vocal talents and live radio sound effects to re-imagine the much-loved celluloid tale of George Bailey's journey of self-worth.

In its second year, Cygnet's staging is done as a live 1940's broadcast complete with head-high microphones, piano and actors in authentic '40s dress and hair styles (note the ladies' roll-up hose).

The show sounds so authentic that if you close your eyes you can conjure the scene through the fascinating sound effects of George Ye and Foley sound designer Scott Paulson. Sean Murray's swift, intermission-less direction makes even the singing commercials fly by as the compelling story unfolds.

It centers, of course, around the all-American mensch George Bailey, played with deep feeling by Tom Andrew while resisting being a parody of Stewart even as he recalls the famed actor's unique cadence. Bailey owns the S & L in Bedford Falls, which is the nemesis of the greedy financier, Mr. Potter, since it allows local



Kevin Bailey as the "Grinch" and James Royce Edwards as "Young Max" in The Old Globe's 2007 production of Dr. Seuss' *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*, book and lyrics by Timothy Mason; music by Mel Marvin; directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein (based on the original concept and direction by Jack O'Brien). Now playing in the Old Globe Theatre. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

folks to own their homes, one of the central features of the American dream.

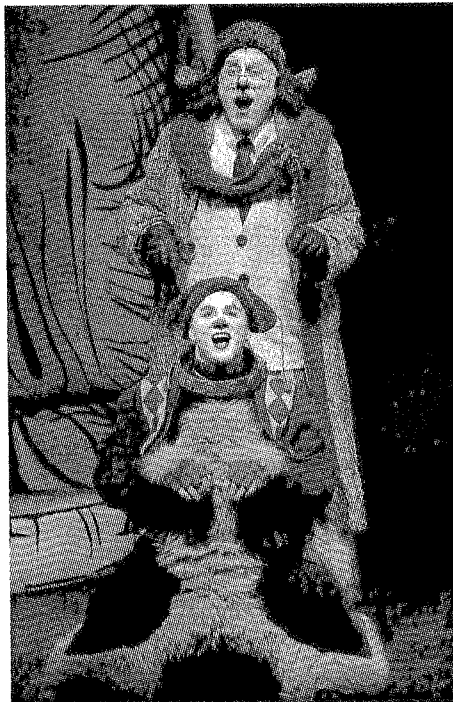
We catch the desperate Bailey on Christmas Eve contemplating suicide, feeling alone and defeated after a lifetime of sacrificing his dreams of adventure to help others. Clarence, an angel second-class played by the versatile David Gallagher, is sent to help George by making him save the angel who fakes drowning. Clarence shows George what the world would have been like if he had never been born. George realizes that he has indeed lived a "wonderful life" with a loving wife and children, plus the complete respect of the townsfolk.

The cast is uniformly splendid, with several actors shifting from one character to another with remarkable ease, and vocal numbers that take us back to the sound of the Andrews Sisters and a time when attention deficit disorder had no name. At an audience-friendly 95 minutes, this show will warm the cockles of your heart.

IF YOU GO

— **HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS** Performances through December 30. Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego. 619.23.GLOBE or theoldglobe.org.

— **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE** Performances through December 30. Cygnet Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd., College Area of San Diego, 619.337.1525 or cygnettheatre.com.



(Left) Kevin Bailey as the Grinch in Old Globe Theatre's production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*
(Right) Martin Van Treuren as Old Max (standing) and James Royce Edwards as Young Max. Photos by Craig Schwartz.

this family favorite year after year, having played to more than 350,000 children and adults.

The 10th anniversary production will feature a number of major revisions, including three new songs, among them a duet between Young Max and Old Max entitled "This Time of Year." A full company number entitled "It's the Thought that Counts," as well as the delightful carol, "Fah Who Doraze," from the popular animated version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Other changes to the show include expanded dance sections in the children's song "Whatchamawho," a redesigned costume for the Grinch, and many significant changes to the book of this beloved musical. (For more on this holiday favorite turn to page 82.)

If You Go — **DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!** Tickets are now on sale and will be available by phone at 619.23.GLOBE, on the Globe website at TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59 for adults and from \$19 to \$31 for children (3-17 years). Now through December 30.

DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

THE OLD GLOBE
CELEBRATES
10TH YEAR OF SAN
DIEGO'S FAVORITE
HOLIDAY TRADITION

Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch of the Tony Award-winning Old Globe are pleased to present the 10th anniversary production of San Diego's premiere holiday event, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin, playing through December 30.

Launched in 1998, the Globe has performed

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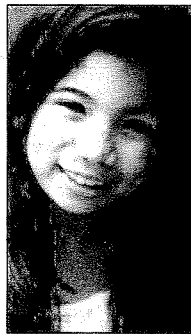
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SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Del Mar Village Voice

DEC 20 2007

Carmel Valley 4th grader plays Cindy Lou Who at The Old Globe



Gaby Greenwald
Photo/Daniel Baird

Carmel Valley resident Gaby Greenwald, 10, joins The Old Globe's 10th year anniversary production of Dr. Seuss' *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* as "Cindy-Lou Who," the little girl

who enchants the Grinch. Gaby is cast with other very talented actors from San Diego, Los Angeles and New York. She alternates the role of Cindy-Lou Who with another North County talent, Skylar Starrs Siben, to

cover all 44 performances. Other Carmel Valley cast members include Hannah Prater and Alison Grace Norwood, both playing Betty-Lou Who alternately. Gaby has been in several youth musical theater performances since age 7 but this marks her very first professional role, and first involvement with The Old Globe. This 4th grader from Sycamore Ridge Elementary School claims, "playing Cindy Lou is the most fun role I've ever played," and hopes to do more professional work as such.

This year's production stars Kevin Bailey as "The Grinch" and boasts a number of major production updates, including three new songs. Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* opened on Nov. 25 and runs through Dec. 30 at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park, San Diego. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$59 (adults) and \$19 to \$31 (children 3 to 17). For more information, call (619) 23-GLOBE or visit www.theoldglobe.org.



Gaby Greenwald as "Cindy-Lou Who" and Kevin Bailey as "The Grinch" in The Old Globe's annual holiday musical, Dr. Seuss' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

DEC 20 2007

Much to see on stage this holiday season!

By Alice Cash



Alice Cash

Take a break from the endless holiday shopping and get over to the theatre! Theatre tickets make great gifts. You don't have to go to that last sale at Nordstrom, just relax and sit inside a cozy theatre watching an amazing show. I also want to challenge you to bring someone who is not really a theatre patron, make it your New Year's Resolution.

It was totally raining in San Diego, literally, and on stage. "Rain" recently played at Broadway San Diego at the Civic Theatre. The show created by Cirque Eloize, a Quebec-based ensem-

Theater review — from a teen perspective

ble, has traveled all over the world, from the Sydney Opera House to New York's Lincoln Center. The performance combines spectacular visual effects, powerful stunts of skill, avant-garde movement and, of course, rain.

The acts included juggling, tumbling, giant hula-hoops with people rolling around inside of them, climbing ribbons, acrobats, and much, much more. For each new feat, your mouth would hang open with what the company would do next. My favorite part was the rain and their interpretations of it, from swimming to playing soccer, to just standing in it. The company included Jocelyn Bigras, Nicolas Boivin-Gravel, Irina Burliy, Oksana Burliy, Ashley Carr, Jean-Philippe Labelle, Nadine Louis, Sandrine Merette, Bartlomiej Pankau, Samuel Roy, Anna Ward, Jonas Woolverton and Jacek Wyskup.

The stage pictures and visual effects were stunning in the show. The lighting really added to the picture designed by Martin Labrecque, with beautiful music being performed on the stage with singing and a piano (which was carried on and off stage by one man!) designed by Maria Bonzanigo and Lucie Cauchon. The show was directed and written by Daniele Finzi Pasca about childhood explorations and rain.

The show closed this past weekend, but up next for **Broadway San Diego is the hit "High School Musical" playing from Dec. 26-30.** You don't want to miss this show! You can call (619) 570-1100 or go to www.broadwaysd.com for ticket information.

This week I was also had the opportunity to see a high school production of infamous "Annie." I was pleasantly surprised at the level of talent on the stage and am now convinced that teenagers were supposed to play the high-belting orphans. For a high school production, I was also quite amused that the Mr. Warbucks had really shaved his head. The dedicated Warbucks certainly captured my attention (Josh Herren) as well as the positively sinister Ms. Hannigan (Jamie Bock) and squeaky-voiced Lily (LaVon Wageman). Senior Kali Lindsay played a very convincing Annie. The Francis Parker High School production was very professional and even imaginatively performed in a thrust stage (three-sided) seating arrangement. I congratulate them on a job well done. If you would like to know more about Francis Parker's drama program you can go to http://www.francisparker.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=149&Itemid=451.

Grease + Hairspray = an even more incredible show. Now playing at the La Jolla Playhouse, "Crybaby," which is a show based on the John Waters film, tells the story of Cry Baby Walker and his love for the "square" Alison. I was able to see the show during a student matinee and the energy and excitement was contagious. "Let Me Kiss You with Tongue," was a particular favorite with the teen crowd. The show is transferring to Broadway next year, so go see it while it is still in San Diego. "Crybaby" is up there for one of the best shows I have seen this year! The show has closed but for information on upcoming shows at the La Jolla Playhouse, visit www.lajollaplayhouse.org or call (858) 550-1010 for more information!

OK, so it's Christmas time again, and a big San Diego tradition is back for its 10th year; "The Grinch" is now playing at the Old Globe Theatre. The show actually originated 10 years ago during a conference between Ms. Audrey Giesel and Jack O'Brien. This classic for San Diego Theatre is now a New York phenomenon, it's back, bigger and better than ever before with new changes, including three new songs such as "Wahoo Doree" and "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

The show is spectacular as ever and a great treat for the entire family, in fact, about half the audience was younger than 10, and they all really enjoyed it. The show offers audience interaction as well as a great first-time theatre experience. "The Grinch" is especially eccentric and outrageous, not really scary, but he had huge facial expressions and physicality played by Kevin Bailey. Cindy Lou Who whom befriends the two sizes too small Grinch was played by Gaby Greenwald. And the dogging Max's played by Martin Van Treuren and James Royce Edwards.

The new additions to the show really add to it and make it even better than it already was. If you haven't seen the show before, you've definitely got to make it this year with an *amazing* ensemble that adds to the energy on stage! There are so many kids in the production but they are all very professional and just so exciting to watch. During "Whatchamawho," all the kids go crazy around the Grinch, playing with their toys and screaming and yelling. It was very cute.

The sets and costumes are straight from the book, designed magically by John Lee Beatty and Robert Morgan respectively. The lights created striking effects, especially when the Grinch would hit a whip to the floor and make the lights turn on where it struck, designed by Pat Collins, and sound was great as usual, designed by Paul Peterson.

The Grinch was originally directed by Jack O'Brien, most recently retired from the Old Globe and is now a hit director on the great white way. This is a great first timer or seasoned patron theatre production, and is perfect for families. You can go to www.oldglobe.org or call (619) 234-5623 for more information.

Get away from the rain, crowds and your books and enjoy this holiday season in a San Diego theatre.

THEATER



The Grinch (Kevin Bailey) struts his stuff as he plots to rob Whoville blind in The Old Globe Theatre's *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Global exchange

REVAMPED *GRINCH* MARKS
A NEW BEGINNING FOR
THE OLD GLOBE'S JACK O'BRIEN

BY MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

At least one patron sat transfixed during *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, that vaguely mushy but heartfelt season's-greeting musical now in its 10th year at The Old Globe Theatre. That's not saying much. This little girl's been to plays with me before, and her mom and I always laugh at how she totally shuts down once the lights come up. If depth of concentration were dollars and cents, the kid could have bought out Globe artistic director Jack O'Brien's contract, with room to spare for her college tuition fund and an Orange

Dream at Jamba Juice (her fave).

She was spared the former prospect as of Thursday, Dec. 6. That's when the theater announced that O'Brien, its artistic director since 1981 and winner of three of the last five Best Director Tony Awards, will, on Jan. 1, assume the title of artistic director emeritus. That's a fancy way of saying his role at The Globe will drastically diminish amid crushing demands on the East Coast, where he's one of the most sought-after figures in commercial and nonprofit theater today.

O'Brien, 68, numbers *The Grinch* among more than 60 Globe productions he's helmed; the slate includes big-name world premieres like *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *The Full Monty*. He got *The Grinch* to Broadway in 2006; this season, the show holds two distinctions back East: It was the first casualty of last month's stagehands strike, and a judge ruled it could reopen during the walkout because of its short holiday run. The strike ended five days later.

This time around, local *Grinch* audiences are treated to three new songs and a nice choreographic dust-off. The story is the brighter for it, with Kevin Bailey's wheedling Grinch effecting a flawless change of heart after he robs the residents of Whoville blind on Christmas Day. The role of Cindy-Lou Who (played on alternate nights by Skyler Starrs Siben and Gaby Greenwald) is drawn too apologetically for me. Cindy's a bright kid, but her dialogue paints her as overly naïve amid the Grinch's wholesale thievery. Melinda Gilb and Steve Gunderson hold sway as Mama and Papa Who; they're nicely typecast and are among several San Diego actors in this show.

The local connections, of course, don't stop there. The story was written by 50-year La Jolla resident Theodor Seuss Geisel, known worldwide as the iconic children's author Dr. Seuss. Geisel died in 1991 at age 87.

The Globe's new artistic directorship will be shared by longtime dramaturge Jerry Patch and Darko Tresnjak, who since 2004 has served as artistic director of the theater's summer Shakespeare festivals. The acclaimed Tresnjak, 41, fancies more obscure material, plays whose missteps may have relegated them to the depths. "Bruised beauties," he calls them, preferring to flesh out their better qualities before consigning them to obscurity. There's a forthrightness in that phrase, one that will ideally declare itself in the theater's play choices.

Such candor similarly underscored O'Brien's shows—and although I found his direction too effusive at times, I didn't see a trace of that trait in *The Grinch*. If she could write, my little buddy likely would have said as much amid her own scrutiny—remember, she didn't so much as blink during the whole thing. Little did she know she was also taking in a play that marks a major transition in local theater history. **CB**

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! runs through Dec. 30 at The Old Globe Theatre mainstage, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. \$19-\$39. 619-23-GLOBE or www.oldglobe.org.

SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Daily Transcript

DEC 28 2007

Closing out the year with final performances



Art Facts

By Kathleen
Dowling

Several holiday shows will make their final performances in San Diego this weekend. "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," which is showing at the Old Globe Theatre, closes Sunday. The Globe announced it has added an additional performance on 11 a.m. Saturday. Call the theatre's box office at (619) 234-5623 for availability.

The Cygnet Theatre Company also closes its curtains on "It's A Wonderful Life: A Radio Play" Sunday. Limited tickets remain. For more information, call (619) 337-1525 or visit cygnettheatre.com.

North Coast Reperatory Theatre's performances of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" close Sunday. For more information, call (858) 481-1055 or visit northcoastrep.org.

Several Balboa Park attrac-

tions will welcome guests on New Year's Day, including the San Diego Zoo, which will open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (last entrance at 4 p.m.). The Natural History Museum will be open 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and Imax Theater will be open 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and the San Diego Model Railroad Museum will be open 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Beginning Jan. 1, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego will implement new hours at its downtown location. The museum will be open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays through Mondays, and Wednesdays. The museum will be open for extended hours on Thursdays 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and will be closed Tuesdays.

Its La Jolla location will keep its current hours, which are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays through Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursdays and closed Wednesdays. For more information, call (858) 454-3541 or visit mcaseo.org.

kathleen.dowling@sddt.com

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DEC 27 2007

SOCIAL

glt

URBAN ADDICT

by Marvin Hanashiro



click → past columns online at www.gaylesbianimes.com

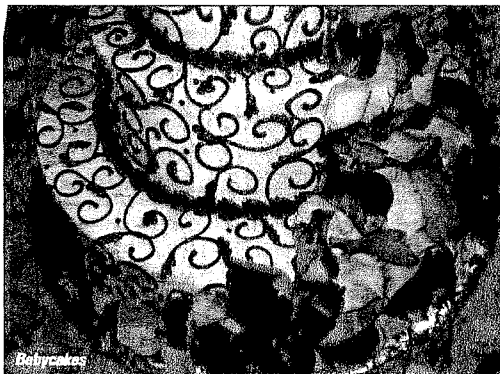
Another year has gone and now's the time for you to contemplate your resolutions for 2008.

I recently read only 46 percent of people who make New Year's resolutions stick with them six months later.

Being the supportive person I am (wink, wink), in an effort to increase retention rates and assist everyone in maintaining their resolutions this year, this column is dedicated to helping you keep your resolutions.

Resolution No. 1: Spend more time with friends and family

Normally, two weeks during the holidays with my family is more than enough time for the year, but if you want to spend more quality time with your loved ones, then treat them to a nice cup of joe and dessert at **Babycakes**, "where fun meets fabulous," coming in 2008 to **David's Coffee House** on 3766 Fifth Ave. For more information, check out <http://www.myspace.com/babycakesandiego>.



If you're looking for a night on the town, don't miss **San Diego Restaurant Week**, Jan. 27-Feb. 1. More than 130 of the city's best restaurants offer three-course dinners for a fixed price of \$30 or \$40 (not including beverages, tax, and gratuity) during the annual event. I'm no mathematician, but 130 restaurants multiplied by three courses equals a hel-

lva lot of options to choose from for the budget gourmet. For a complete list of participating restaurants, visit www.sandiegorestaurantweek.com.

After a good dinner, join your fellow gays for a pre-show party with hosted bar and light appetizers at **Out at the Globe**, a periodic event for GLBT theater lovers at the Old Globe. This month, the evening begins at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 24 in the Globe Plaza and is followed by a production of "Sea of Tranquility" at 8 p.m. The cost is \$18 per person, in addition to the price of a ticket to see the show. The Old Globe is located on 1363 Old Globe Way.

Resolution No. 2: Lose weight and get fit

I don't know about you, but going to the gym is not my idea of fun. And we all know everyone will be at the gym this time of year to try and lose those extra holiday pounds. So, avoid the crowd. Consider joining a sports group this year, and have some fun while you get in shape!

For those who like to get nice and wet, the **Different Strokes Swim Team** invites swimmers of all experience levels for daily swims around town. Be prepared for a good workout and great fun! Visit <http://www.dsst.org> for membership requirements, practice schedule and other important information.

If you enjoy the open road, the **Rainbow Cyclists** get together on the first and third Sunday of each month for rides that range from 16 to 40+ miles. On the first Sunday of the month, the team meets at the Solana Beach Amtrak Station at 9 a.m., and on the third Sunday it meets at the Old Town Transit Center at 9 a.m.. Check out www.rainbowcyclists.org for more information.

If running is more your speed, **Front Runners & Walkers** meet at the southeast

corner of Sixth and Laurel on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. and all major holidays at 9 a.m. for running and walking. Visit www.frwvsd.org for more info.

If you're looking for something a little more hands on, then consider joining the **San Diego Wrestling Club** for a little "mano y mano" action. The Bulldogs practice on Sundays at 4 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the main auditorium of The Center, located at 3909 Centre St. For membership and other pertinent info, check out www.sdwrestling.org.

Resolution No. 3: Enjoy life more

Stuck in a rut or just don't know what to do with yourself? Pick up a new hobby this year, such as backpacking and hiking with **Perfect Pace**, the Southern California non-profit gay backpacking and hiking organization. The group primarily focuses on overnight backpacking trips, but also hosts day hikes and extreme power hikes. New members are encouraged to register for a day hike before attending a backpacking trip. For more info and to register, visit www.perfectpace.com.

Everyone likes an adventure (to some degree) and **The San Diego Gay Adventuring Club** is for "people who like to be physically active at a moderate-and-above level, and are ready to experience new places in the world and meet

people whose views on life vary from our own" (sounds very intriguing). If interested, sign up for the Yahoo! group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sdgac/>.

Resolution No. 4: Learn something new

We all learned in grade school that "reading is fundamental," partly because you can always learn something valuable from a good book. So why not make reading a more social event by joining the **Gay Book Club**, a place where book enthusiasts can "connect, converse, challenge, laugh, and stimulate each other" (tee-hee). There are several different groups that meet monthly: The mixed group (sexes and orientations) meets on the first Monday of the month from 7-9 p.m.; a gay men's group meets the first Wednesday from 7-9 p.m.; another gay men's group meets the first Saturday from 5-7 p.m.; and the gay women's group meets the first Thursday. The

venue is different each month, so e-mail gaybookclub@cox.net for meeting places and more information.

For those craving a little more action, put those dancing shoes on and shake your tail feathers at a **KP Dancehouse** gay ballroom and latin dance class, held every Tuesday at Shooterz (3815 30th St.). Intermediate levels meet at 6:30 p.m., beginners at 7:30 p.m., and the practicing party begins at 8:30 p.m. The fee is \$8 for non-members, and \$5 for members (50 percent of proceeds go the Hillcrest Youth Center). For more info, go to www.kpdancehouse.com.

Resolution No. 5: Volunteer

If getting more involved in your community is one of your resolutions, there are many worthy organizations in San Diego in need of support and volunteers. **Mama's Kitchen** (www.mamaskitchen.org) and **Special Delivery** (www.specialdeliversandiego.com) both prepare and deliver food to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS and other critical illnesses. **Auntie Helen's** (

[tiehelens.org](http://www.tiehelens.org)) provides free laundry service, emergency clothing, and medical equipment check-out to those living with HIV/AIDS.

The Center is always looking for volunteers to aid its numerous services, including administrative and front-desk support, the cyber center, and the Hillcrest Youth Center. Visit www.thecentersd.org for a complete list of volunteer opportunities and an application.

If you have some extra time to spare but don't know what organization you would like to volunteer for, then stop by the Third Annual San Diego LGBT Community Leadership Council's Community Volunteer Fair on Jan. 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Center. More than 30 GLBT and progressive organizations will be present and want you involved!

Whatever your resolution, have a safe and happy New Year! I leave you with a relevant quote from British diarist and critic James **Evershed Agate**:

"New Year's Resolution: To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time." ●

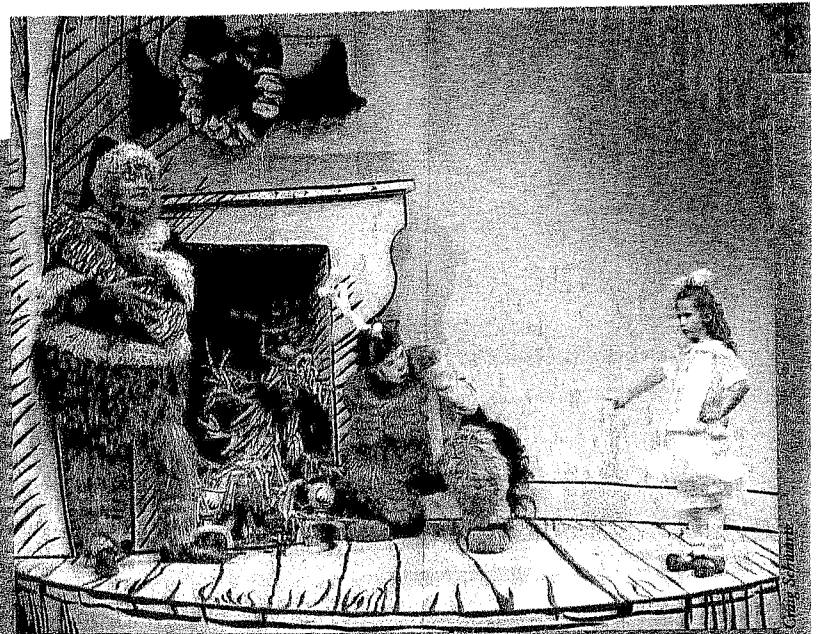
**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
SD Family Magazine**

NOV - - 2007



Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

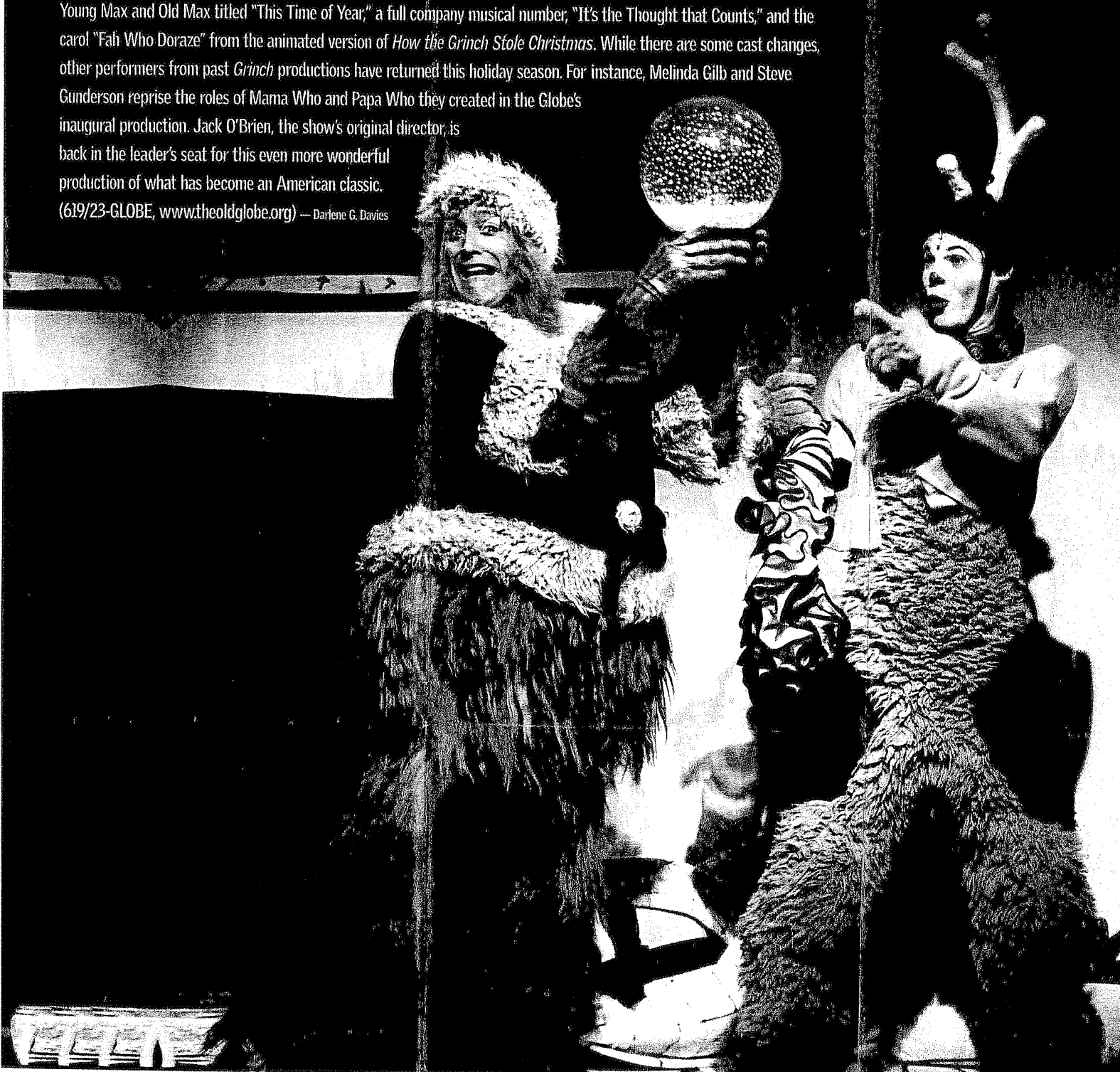
Don't miss this annual holiday classic as it lights up the stage with three delightful new songs, more dancing and magical fun for the whole family. **Nov. 25-Dec. 30.** See Website for show times. Adults \$39-\$59; ages 3-17 \$19-\$31. Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. www.theoldglobe.org; 619-23-GLOBE.



The Grinch Returns

The Grinch is back in town, where he comfortably resides at The Old Globe through December 30. That beloved ogre has been a presence at the Globe since 1998, when the first Dr. Seuss *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* stage production was launched. As memorable as each year's show has been, the current one is really special. To honor the tenth anniversary of the Globe's production of *Grinch*, major revisions have been made, resulting in three new songs, expanded dance sections for the song "Whatchamawho," fresh duds for the Grinch, and numerous changes to the story. New songs include a duet between Young Max and Old Max titled "This Time of Year," a full company musical number, "It's the Thought that Counts," and the carol "Fah Who Doraze" from the animated version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. While there are some cast changes, other performers from past *Grinch* productions have returned this holiday season. For instance, Melinda Gilb and Steve Gunderson reprise the roles of Mama Who and Papa Who they created in the Globe's inaugural production. Jack O'Brien, the show's original director, is back in the leader's seat for this even more wonderful production of what has become an American classic.

(619/23-GLOBE, www.theoldglobe.org) — Darlene G. Davies



SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Enlace

NOV 24 2007

Saliditas [Actividades y paseos para toda la familia]



Craig Schwartz

Verde y malvado El clásico navideño del Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, viene al Old Globe Theatre, en el Parque Balboa. Habrá numerosas funciones del 25 de noviembre al 30 de diciembre. \$39 a \$59, \$19 a \$31 niños de 3 a 17 años. Consulta el sitio en internet para ver los horarios. (619) 234.5623; www.theoldglobe.org.

**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Gay & Lesbian Times**

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**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
North County Times
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NOV 25 2007



"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — The Old Globe presents its 10th annual production of the Timothy Mason/Mel Marvin musical, with three new songs, a revised book, a new dance number and a new Grinch costume; runs through Dec. 30; showtimes vary; *Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego*; \$39-\$59, general; \$19-\$31, children ages 3 to 17; (619) 234-5623.

**SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Star News
NOV 23 2007**

DINING

HOLIDAY GREEN

**CHECK OUT THE HOLIDAY
EVENTS GUIDE, p. 10**



DEC - 8 2007



THEATER

Christmas comes early

As soon as the last bit of Thanksgiving turkey was gobbled down, a bevy of Christmas productions hit stages around town. Theater critic Anne Marie Welsh reviews the Old Globe's expanded "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" and Cygnet Theatre's "It's a Wonderful Life." **C1**

Holiday guide: May your season be merry

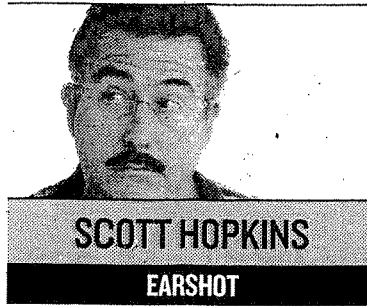
SAN DIEGO CLIPPING
Star News
NOV 28 2007

When many of us were children, the Christmas season began the day after Thanksgiving. Now it seems to begin in September, at least at such retailers as Costco. The warehouse marketing team has the nativity displays up when the Biblical people depicted would still be working on their summer tans.

We've also seen a special name given to the day following Thanksgiving — Black Friday — when holiday shopping begins in earnest. What an uplifting name!

I should note that, for many guys, shopping actually commences at about noon on Christmas Eve, and at that point, it's moved from earnest to emergency.

This year, amid the shopping and holiday preparations that invariably occupy much of our time, I would like to en-



SCOTT HOPKINS

EARSHOT

courage all Chula Vistas, especially parents, to take advantage of some of the many holiday-related performances and sports events that are offered. Some of them are in Chula Vista, many are in San Diego. Most of them are free or very low cost.

Each event involves others working to brighten our holiday spirit.

As an early gift to the community, then, I present a partial listing of events that are available (listed by date of event):

HOME 4.THE HOLIDAYS 2007

Chula Vista Animal Care Facility and other county facilities are trying to find homes for orphaned animals. Ongoing through New Year's Eve. 130 Beyer Way, Chula Vista. Call 476-2491.

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Nov. 25 through Dec. 30: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. Call 23-GLOBE. Web site: www.TheOld-Globe.org.

STARLIGHT PARADE/TREE LIGHTING

Holiday tree lighting and 45th annual Starlight Parade. Dec. 1 on Third Avenue, downtown Chula Vista. Tree lighting 5:30 p.m., parade follows. Call 422-1982.

HOLIDAY JUBILEE

"Holiday Jubilee," acrobats, singing, dancing, comedy. Dec. 1: California Center for the Arts, Escondido. Call (800) 988-4253. Web site: www.artcenter.org.

SCROOGE

"Scrooge" by Christian Youth Theater, El Cajon. Dec. 1-2. Call 588-0206. Web site: www.cyt.org.

LA JOLLA CHRISTMAS PARADE

50th annual La Jolla Christmas parade (1:30 p.m.) and holiday festival (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Dec. 2. Web site: www.ljparade.com.

TRADITIONS: A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

15th annual "Traditions: A Christmas Musical Spectacular." Dec. 6-23: East County Performing Arts Center, El Cajon. Call 588-0206. Web site: www.CCTMusicalTheater.com.

CLUB LV DANCE

Club LV Dance. Dec. 7: Loma Verde Recreation Center, 1420 Loma Lane. Web site: www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us.

WINTER DANCE

Elementary school winter dance. Dec. 7: Loma Verde Recreation Center, 1420 Loma Lane. Web site: www.ci.chula-vista.ca.us.

BABES IN TOYLAND

"Babes in Toyland." Dec. 7-9, 14-16, 21-23: San Diego Junior Theatre, 250 Third Ave., Chula Vista. Call 239-8355. Web site: www.juniorthatre.com.

ANNIE JUNIOR

"Annie Junior" featuring the Kroc Kids. Dec. 7-9: Joan B. Kroc Junior Theatre Company. Call 269-1522. Web site: www.KrocCenter.org.

DECEMBER NIGHTS

Balboa Park December Nights. Dec. 7-8. San Diego's favorite kick-off to the holiday season. Entertainment Friday, 5-10 p.m.; Saturday, noon-10 p.m. Participating museums open free both nights from 5-9 p.m.; 30th year, large crowds (300,000 over two days) expected. Web site: balboapark.org.



The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park is presenting "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Nov. 25 through Dec. 30.

been set aside for this purpose. The show, at the Horton Grand Theatre in

the downtown Gaslamp area, will close its 10-plus year run on Feb. 17, 2008.

SPOTLIGHT

The Grinch's New Attitude with Kevin Bailey

Breathing New Life into a Holiday Tradition

By Bill Biss



Kevin Bailey as The Grinch photo by Craig Schwartz

NEED A JUMPSTART TO GET YOU IN THE HOLIDAY MOOD? The Old Globe has just the remedy for anyone feeling a bit grouchy or "Grinchy" if you will. *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* will transport you into the world of Whoville, where one mean green creature discovers the true meaning of the holiday spirit from one adorable little Cindy Lou Who. This beloved Dr. Seuss fantasy is sure to make your heart grow two inches bigger in the process. Young and old alike should add The Old Globe production to their Christmas wish list as many innovative changes have been made this year to the production. *Rage* spoke with actor Kevin Bailey who is wearing the green and getting mean in this year's show.

SPOTLIGHT

He described his characterization of this well-known role by saying, "Significant to the Grinch himself... he's just what you know and love about this hard-hearted creature who wants one thing more than anything else and that is to know what is real holiday love and in a sense that, somebody loves and belongs to him. The first time that happens in the show and there are little kids and an audience experiencing that, there is nothing greater in life than watching the eyes of a six, seven or eight year-old, expand with that feeling.

Kevin and his partner, James J. Mellon, have two young children of their own who came to the show last year. "They came last year to see me play Old Max and they are very excited about coming down this year to see me play the Grinch."

What is the most challenging part of this role as the Grinch? "Going into *The Grinch*, because I certainly got to rehearse it (last year) as being an understudy, it is because the Grinch is a wonderful, bigger-than-life character, there's that sense



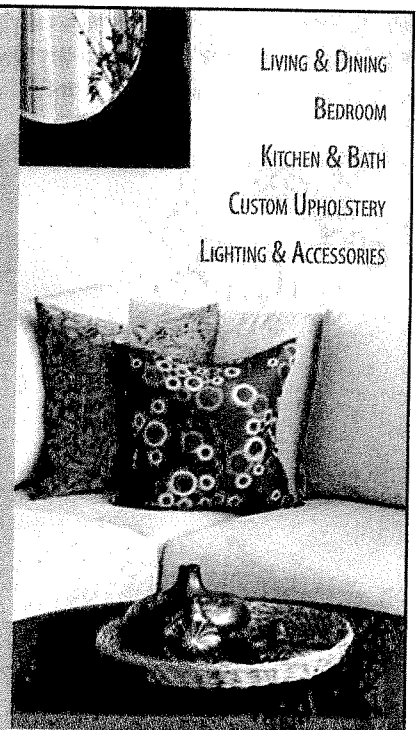
of having to be and I want to use this word carefully... I don't like calling him a monster. You don't know what the Grinch really is, since in wonderful Seuss-land, he's this great made-up character. So, he's not a monster, but sort of a holiday bully. So, how much bully he is versus how much play he has. He can't be the meanest guy, so there is that fine line of making sure you are mean enough for a Christmas bully but without making him

just plain mean, you know? You also don't really want to put fear into the young children. With a live stage show, it hits kids in a way an animated show doesn't.

This larger-than-life creature is right in front of you. But, underneath it all, there is playfulness to the Grinch. It's the greatest gift in the world that a young girl has changed the heart of this character."



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This is Kevin Bailey's second time around appearing in *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* He played Old Max in last year's production at The Old Globe. Kevin was also the understudy for the Grinch as well.

The show is celebrating a very important marker this year. Very pleased to be in the Grinch's shoes, Kevin said, "I know, since it's their tenth year. It's a pretty big milestone in any show's history, I think if it comes around ten seasons in a row, it means that the folks at the Old Globe are doing something very right."

There is also the unveiling of a redesigned costume for The Grinch. And yes, the Grinch is still green. "Exactly (Laughter) yes, that's correct. I saw pictures from the Broadway production which is where the costume design comes back from and they are bringing some of those ideas back to San Diego. So, it will seem like a whole new Grinch for many, many people."

Never having seen the show and with a promise to do so this time around, Kevin filled me in on why it's such an enjoyable theatre experience. "It's well worth it. I have to tell you, last year, it seemed like we ran for two months. Initially, I was

like 'Oh boy, I don't know if I've ever quite rung in the holidays this soon.' We all have that slightly nose-down thought of why does everybody have to rush into the holidays so fast? It seems like it hits October 1st and everybody is not even thinking of Halloween or Thanksgiving, but getting ready for Christmas.

"But, you know what? We were in rehearsals last year in October and it never felt that way. It was so much fun to be in such a holiday mood for so long."

How The Grinch Stole Christmas! is so whimsical that its magic is just that... "Magic," as it puts the audience in such a holiday mood. The show is based originally on an animated holiday cartoon. Just how does the production transfer that animated world onto the stage? Kevin answers, "Actually, brilliantly. I can only speak for myself, but actually it may have been that way for you too...but, when we were kids, there was only *Rudolph*, *Frosty the Snowman*, *Charlie Brown's Christmas* and *The Grinch*. Those were the big four. So, I enjoyed *The Grinch* as a holiday favorite, and when you're just a wee one, watching *The Grinch* at Christmas time was just one of the greatest thrills."

Kevin Bailey



GIVE IT UP FOR THE GRINCH



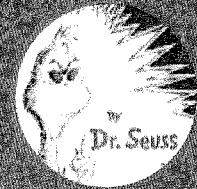
The television special aired originally in 1966 and is celebrating its 41st year on the air this December.

Boris Karloff, the original movie Frankenstein, was the voice of the Grinch and the narrator.

The word 'grinch' has become a slang term meaning a cruel, antisocial or Christmas-hating person.



The live-action movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* features more than 52,000 Christmas lights, about 8,200 Christmas ornaments, and nearly 2,000 candy canes.



The original Grinch was not green—like everything else in the book, he was black and white with some red and pink splotches.



June Foray, the voice of Cindy Lou Who, was also the voice of Rocky the flying squirrel and Natasha Fatale in the *Rocky and Bullwinkle* cartoons.