THEATER REVIEWS

‘Grinch’ steals hearts ripe for the plucking

By Jane Clifford

Staff Writer

It’s a mean one, that Mr. Grinch. Kevin Bailey’s towering, green, furry presence on stage opening night at The Old Globe was enough to keep dozens of children on good behavior, tearing at their shirts. They pointed when they saw him slither down a pole, they shrieked back as he crawled menacingly toward the edge of the stage, and they simply froze when he made his way into the audience.

“Your name?” he said to a woman in the second row.

“Do you have a name?” he added, when the startled mom didn’t answer quickly enough.

“Stephanie,” she said, looking at the audience as if repeated what she’d told him.

And at that moment everyone in the theater became neighbors in Whoville, aligned with the colorfully dressed characters who are determined not to let the Grinch steal their Christmas spirit, even if he threatens everything else.

That familiar story played out in this familiar setting as "The Whoville Christmas," aby directed by Benjamin Eadsley Klein, begins its 11th season.

There was no sign that the San Diego holiday tradition was on automatic pilot. The energy of the performers was clear, generating renewed enthusiasm among young and old and those in the middle.

Old Max (Martin Van Treuren) sets just the right tone as narrator, taking you back to the days when he was a young pup, dragged into the Grinch’s devilishly devious scheme. He remains as

Talented cast puts utmost Grinch-ness in Dr. Seuss’ tale of purloined Christmas

By Clare Farley

This holiday season, the 11th annual production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," based on the book by Dr. Seuss, is back at The Old Globe in Balboa Park. This classic show will complete your holiday season. The children of the cast are split into two groups (red and white), each performing on alternate nights; the night I watched the show, the white group was performing.

Upon entering the theater, the Seuss-like decor, especially outside, will contribute to the feeling of being in Dr. Seuss' book. A well-dressed tree is outside along with large candle silhouette and the Grinch’s head popping out of the corner of a building. During the show, the Whoville sets closely resemble Dr. Seuss' own world.

The Grinch is played by Kevin Bailey. With characteristic facial expressions and hoarse voice, along with the overly scrooged costume, Bailey was full of “Grinch-ness.” Because he doesn’t remotely represent the harmless green cartoon, a “safe room” is provided from which scared children can watch the show.

Martin Van Treuren as Old Max the dog is as his best in “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,” even getting the audience to sing along. Young Max, played by Logan Lipton, demonstrates high energy and playfulness. Most charming of all was little Cindy Lou Who. Played by Isadora Tutulian. Her exceptional voice is demonstrated in “Santastic for a Day.”

The Who costumes and wigs are probably the most noteworthy things about them. All green, red and white, they are rounded and fluffy and complete the storybook feel. In addition, the wigs and pointed hats are hilarious. On the other hand, the costumes of Old and Young Max look like the book and television versions. "Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is definitely worth seeing. But younger children may be afraid of the Grinch’s larger-than-life personality, so an age range would be about 6 and up. Otherwise, it’s perfect for the entire family.

My Rating: A

Clare Farley, 12, is a reviewer for “G.”
PLAYBILL

CRITIC'S CHOICE

"Xanadu" The gods have smiled on this '80s-fixated roller-disco musical, a Tony nominee making its West Coast debut. Not the major deities, maybe, but at least, say, the goddess of tube socks. Writer Douglas Carter Beane and director Christopher Ashley (the Playhouse's artistic director) turn the campy 1980 movie about a Greek muse and an artist dude into a giddy satirical mash-up that's worth plenty of laughs. Nearly 20 years later, the songs (most notably by ELO) have, if not eternal life, at least now of life, a few hooks left in them yet. (James Hebert) Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts (La Jolla Playhouse), University of California, San Diego, La Jolla-UTC. Through Dec. 21. 858-550-1000, laplayhouse.org. $25-$30.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" Yes, it's a show that everyone is very familiar with and it's been playing at the Old Globe for 17 Decembers. But just like the holiday season itself, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not to be missed. The fast-moving, kid-friendly production is a tradition made memorable thanks to everyone from the versatile and very talented mean green guy (Kevin Bailey) right down to Cindy-Lou Who, who melts hearts on stage and off. (Jane Clifford) The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Through Dec. 28. 619-234-5623, theoldglobe.org. $19-$79.

"Scrooge in Rouge" Dickens might see red over the way "Rouge" gives his story a drag-queen makeover, but even Ebenezer likely would crack a smile over this guilty pleasure of an adaptation, styled after a British music-hall show. Tony Houch, Eric Vest and Kim Strasbourger deftly juggle a dizzying string of roles, and Jennifer Brown Gillings's costumes are a mad show all their own. A small little gag gift, wrapped in laughs. (Hebert) Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Blvd., University Heights. Through Dec. 21. 619-220-0097, diversionary.org. $31-$35.

‘Grinch’ sets out to steal hearts ... again

BY DIANA SAENGER
Contributor

It’s hard to imagine a production that can successfully run for 31 years, but when it comes to kids and "Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" anything is possible. The annual holiday production will enchant audiences young and old, from Nov. 15 to Dec. 28 at The Old Globe.

With an incredibly delightful imagination, La Jolla Theatres, Inc.'s Grinch, better known as Dr. Seuss, penned nearly 60 children's books before his passing. The crowd-pleasing "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" is about the scary green creature who dislike party people and wants to ruin Christmas.

Kevin Bailey returns this year to bring and grow the role of the Grinch. The children of Whoville are played by many local youths who alternate performances and include: Skylar Starnes, returning in the role of Cindy-Lou Who, newcomer Isadora Babihali, Bilal Valencia and Allison Norwood as Betty-Lou Who; Madison Simpson and Kyla Schuett as Annie Who; Benjamin Shaffer and Dylan Mulholland as Danny Who; and Tommy Towner and A.J. Fuglietto as Iroh Who.

"It's a lot of hard work but also fun," said Simpson, a fifth grader at Del Mar Elementary who hopes to make her living as a singer. This semester, Simpson had the lead role of Esmeralda in San Diego Junior Theatre's "Carmen," which raised funds to recently replace the national anthem of the NBA Phoenix Suns basketball game.

"I just love performing in front of people," Simpson said. "I can remember seeing before I could talk."

By now 10-year-old Allison Norwood is an old pro on the "Grinch" stage. This is her third year playing Betty-Lou Who. The Omaha Del Mar Elementary student has even been on Disney on Ice, played Tiny Tim in Benson, Missouri's "A Christmas Carol" and has many other theatrical credits.

Norwood claims she feels magic the first time she was on stage.

"Ever since my mother put me in dance class at age 3, I've loved to sing and dance," she said. "I fell in love with acting the first time I was under the spotlight. I had this incredible feeling come over me that I was home. The cast of the Who family feel like family, and it feels fantastic to be a part of something so fun and magical." For many families, "Grinch" is a family tradition.

"Every year on Christmas Eve my grandma that read the book to me," said 10-year-old La Jolla Farms resident. "I love the story and this show because it reminds me of some of the Christmas we've had."

‘Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!’
• Nov. 15 – Dec. 28
• The Old Globe
• 1363 Old Globe Way
• (619) 234-5623, www.scriadvacations.org

Alison Norwood is one of the alternates playing Betty Lou Who in "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"
THEATER

Christmas classics hit the boards

By Joan Lawrenson

'It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play'

Tom Andrew's Jimmy Stewart impersonation gets better every year he plays George Bailey. You remember George, who gives up his dreams of college and travel in order to help the little people in his home town of Bedford Falls, and is then saved from a suicidal depression by a radio angel trying to earn his wings? This is Andrew's third outing, and he's got it pegged in Cygnet Theatre's 39th 'Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play.' This version, which opened Dec. 28 at Cygnet Theatre, will run through Sunday, Dec. 30. For more information, visit www.gaylesbian-times.com/news/10935.

'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas'

The 75-year-old Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas was first published in 1957. The story was then adapted for television in 1966 by Rankin/Bass Productions. The show was first aired on December 25, 1966. The Grinch is voiced by Boris Karloff, who also provided the voice of the narrator. The show was a huge success and has been aired every year since.

'Scrooge in Rouge - a British Music Hall Christmas Carol'

This year, the Redemptorist Theatre is presenting a new production of Scrooge in Rouge, a British Music Hall Christmas Carol. The show features a cast of British actors, including London-born Christmas Caroler, Maxine Murchison. The musical comedy is set in the Victorian era, and tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his Christmas Eve encounter with the ghost of Jacob Marley. The show runs from December 21 to 23 at the Redemptorist Theatre, 355 Richmond Street, London, ON. For more information, visit www.gaylesbian-times.com/news/10936.

'Scrooge in Rouge - a British Music Hall Christmas Carol'

You know you're in for something different when you hear a British music-hall carol called 'The Man Who Knew Too Much.' Sure enough, we're in a British music-hall world where 17 of the 20 '40s Variety Players have been forgotten, leaving three players to play all 54 roles in Scrooge in Rouge, a British Music Hall Christmas Carol. The West Coast premiere of The Redemptorist Theatre's 21st December show opens on December 21 at The Redemptorist Theatre. The show features a cast of British actors, including London-born Christmas Caroler, Maxine Murchison. The musical comedy is set in the Victorian era, and tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his Christmas Eve encounter with the ghost of Jacob Marley. The show runs from December 21 to 23 at the Redemptorist Theatre, 355 Richmond Street, London, ON. For more information, visit www.gaylesbian-times.com/news/10936.

'Scrooge in Rouge plays through Dec. 28 at University Theatre.'
Grinch takes over Globe

BY JOSÉ A. LÓPEZ

He's mean and he's furry green, a bit of a heel and his heart is rumored to be too sizes too small but after more than a decade, the Grinch still puts on quite a show.

As it has for the last 11 years, the Old Globe Theatre channels Dr. Seuss' whimsical town of Who-ville in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" For many San Diegans, the production—which runs through Dec. 28—has established itself as a holiday tradition since it launched in 1998.

Since that time, the play has been seen by more than 350,000 children and adults. During a recent matinee performance, the audience was comprised almost entirely of kids and their parents and all appeared taken with the whimsical production.

The Grinch is played by Kevin Bailey, who also played the titular character in the Globe's 2007 production. Martin Van Treuren plays Old Max, the narrator, while Logan Lipton plays Young Max. Reprising the roles they created in the original production are Melinda Gibb and Steve Gunderson as Mama and Papa Who.

The Who Children and the local ensemble are made up of two rotating casts, which includes 4S Ranch residents Tommy and Ashley Twomey.

For those unfamiliar with the play, it tells the story of the Grinch, who has a tremendous disdain for the Christmas holiday, to the extent that even the mere mention of the word by his dog Max (whose older self narrates the tale) causes him to lash out in anger.

Naturally, the Grinch can't stand the Whos, those cheery beings that live downhill from him and who seem to live only for Christmas, which they celebrate with noisy presents for the boys and girls and with feasts of Who-pudding and Who-roast-beef.

Deciding he has to make a stand, he decides he's going to do everything in his power to stop Christmas from happening.

The play, which was developed by the Old Globe with the blessing of the late author's widow, Audrey Geisel, includes the new additions that were introduced last year.

These include three new songs: "This Time of Year," a duet between Young Max and Old Max, "It's the Thought that Counts," which includes the entire company and "Fah Who Doraze," the carol that will be instantly familiar to anyone who has seen the popular animated version of the story.

Another song from the special, "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," at one point becomes an audience sing-along (the cast provides the lyrics so that even those unfamiliar with the tune can sing). Along with falling snow and the character's movements through the aisles give the production a participatory feel.

Tickets range from $29 to $79 for adults and $19 to $59 for children. Last year all performances sold out. Tickets are available at 619-23-GLOBE or www.TheOldGlobe.org.
THE RETURN OF THE GRINCH
The Old Globe's production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" has become something of a family tradition in San Diego. The musical production returns this year to the Balboa Park theater Nov. 15 and will run through Dec. 28. Tickets are $19-$79.
How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
The Grinch's heart's at least two sizes too small. And he wants to shrink Whoville's glad tidings down as well: steal their presents, their feast-food, and, most of all, stop them from making that infernal yuletide cheer. In a — for him — nightmare vision of same, pear-shaped Who kids whirl around him like a Maypole, singling, tooting kazoos, and he shouts at the audience, "I want to stop it, and you wonder why?"
Will the Grinch have a change of heart (or, as I swear, an expansion)? Can Cindy-Lou Who melt him, and us, in only 85 minutes? Bet on it (especially when Issadora Tulisian bears her natural charm). The Old Globe's 11th annual Christmas show has polish and spirit in abundance. John Lee Beatty's flats wheel on and off like kaleidoscopic snowdrifts; Grinch vocals, led by Melinda Gill, Steve Gunderson, and Eileen Bowman provide valuable support as always, and John DeLuca and Bob Richardson's choreography energizes the house. Martin Von Hmoire's Old Max narrates the story with a kind of gentle wisdom. And Kevin Bailey's Grinch amuses. His voice climbs up and down (way down, like basso profundo down) octaves with astonishing ease. And, if the children sitting in front of me are an indication, Bailey's just scary enough. By the time he changes, they were hoping he would.

Worth a try.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, SABREDA PARK, 615-594-8000.
THURSDAYS, 7 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7 P.M.
SATURDAYS, 2:30 AND 7 P.M. SUN-
DAYS, 2:30 AND 7 P.M. TUESDAYS, 7
P.M. WEDNESDAYS, 7 P.M. THROUGH
DECEMBER 28.
‘The Grinch’ will help lift your spirits

By Alice Cash

In these tough economic conditions, stores and homes are foreclosing all around us. People just aren’t spending like they used to. Credit has dried up and loans are almost impossible to receive. The holidays are withering in their bright spotlight as advertisements are coming earlier as well as those after-Christmas sales to appeal to their audience and implore them to go shopping. The unemployment rate is currently hovering above 6.5 percent, and for weeks now the government has denied any use of the word “recession.” Yet, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a recession is "a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real GDP growth, real personal income, employment (non-farm payrolls), industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales." Considering this definition, we are in a recession, all of these points are valid.

What I mean by these statistics is that local theatre is at the pinnacle of a mountain. It can fall one way, taking down the pathway that rose it to the top, or it can fall the other, becoming the inspiration and hope within this depression. The problem right now is that theatre is too expensive. A survey of high school students showed that they would love to go to the theatre, but they just can’t afford the high ticket prices. This problem has to be solved and quickly. I implore you! If tickets continue at the rate they are at, you will have no new patrons; the current patrons will cut the amount of shows they see, you may go bankrupt (with no government bailout).

Don’t just let those empty seats go to waste! Create a "Teen Night" urging teens in the community to come to the theatre with cheaper ticket prices and a party after the show with the actors. Go out into the community to attract an audience, make it visible and exciting for all. Backstage dramas and how the show was created are especially insightful. Talk with the drama departments at high schools and see if you can arrange a day where they come see your piece, or teach workshops to the schools. Help the community to develop a love of the art or, I am sorry to say, that this recession may hit you.

On a lighter note, “The Grinch” is now playing at the Old Globe Theatre. A holiday-tradition, the show is back in its 11th year, and better than ever before. Based on the book by San Diegan, Dr. Seuss, the tale of a Who with a heart two-sizes too small, is fun for the entire family.

The Grinch, played by Kevin Bailey, is back for his third take on this role. Even more outrageous than before, his emotions are widespread, changing at the drop of a hat. The very cute Issadora Tulalian played Cindy-Lou Who, lighting up the stage, and receiving a crushing amount of applause for her performance. Issadora was able to share the stage with her sister, Issabela Tulalian (part of the Little Who Ensemble).

The Grinch’s Dog Max is the narrator in this story, with two different dogs, the Old Max (Martin Van Teuren) and the Young Max (Logan Lipton), they both reflect upon the story with their doggish insight. The cast features several local kids all singing their hearts out in “Whatchama-who,” going crazy over their toys.

John Lee Beatty designed the set, taking the design straight from the book using only whites, blacks, pinks, and reds like Dr. Seuss. Pieces suddenly appear on the stage, sparkling and shining in the light transforming the land into Whoville. Very creative, puppets appear over the snow banks singing their famous “Welcome Christmas” to the aggravation of the Grinch, a tipping sled slides over the top of an enormous mountain, and a mouse comes out of a hole in a wall to eat the crumb “too small for a mouse.” Costumes were also designed in the red, pink, and white theme. Thus, when the Grinch steps out in his bright green furry coat, he is a huge contrast to the other characters, designed by Robert Morgan. Pat Collins designed the lights, switching instantly as demanded by the upbeat music.

Originally directed by Jack O’Brien, with this production directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein, The Grinch is not to be missed! Playing through Dec. 28, you can call (619) 234-5623 or go online to www.old-globe.org for more information.
STAGE PRESENCE

Local theaters have some Christmas gifts for you and yours

By James Hebert, THEATER CRITIC

Maybe it’s because we have to try extra-hard to get in that yuletide mood, or maybe it’s because we just can’t get enough of our favorite local theaters. Whatever the thinking, we here in our warm little corner of the country do love us some holiday stage shows.

So popular are these annual offerings that this year, a couple of theaters are offering up two shows. The productions coming down the pike (or down the chimney, as it were) include characters both familiar (the Grinch, Scrooge) and less so (Scrooge in drag?).

Here, a peek at what’s stuffing our theatrical stocking:

"A Christmas Carol" and "It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," Cygnet Theatre: Artistic director Sean Murray’s new adaptation of the Dickens classic inaugurates Cygnet’s Old Town space, while the “radio play” replaces a Whovian show that’s been a hit the past two seasons. "Carol": Premiere start Nov. 28, Tuesdays-Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 and 7 p.m. Through Dec. 28. Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twiggs St.; 619-234-5623; thecygnet.org.


Wendy Needle and Terry Schott in a scene from "Off the Ground," which begins previews at Carlsbad’s New Village Arts Theatre on Dec. 4. Adam Deitch

"A Christmas Carol," North Coast Repertory Theatre: A very welcome return for Jacqueline Goldfinger’s momming, gently musicalized “Caroll” from last year, with Stephen Elton directing and Ron Chusid


Tony Houck (left) and Eric Vest in Diversionsary Theatre’s holiday production, "Scrooge in Rouge." Barron Hidal

Ballrooms, 1500 Orange Ave.; $110-$150 (includes dinner; $30 off for kids 5-12; no one under 5 admitted). For box: (619) 437-0600, lambspayters.org.

"Off the Ground," New Village Arts Theatre: Writers Tom Zohar and Amy Chini bring back their original tale of an extended family having a comic drama of a holiday. "Premium start Dec. 4, Thursdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 3 and 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Through Dec. 21. 2797-B State St., Carlsbad; $20-$40 (pay what you can Dec. 4-5). (760) 435-3245; NewVillageArts.org.


"Scrooge in Rouge," Diversionsary Theatre: Straight from New Orleans, this giddy, quick-change Dickens take-off has three actors playing 25 roles. Scrooge may be in makeup, but the show sounds like anything but a drag. Premiere start today. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 and 7 p.m. Through Dec. 21. 4543 Park Blvd., University Heights; $31-$35 ($20 today and tomorrow). (619) 220-0697; diversionsary.org.
"A Christmas Carol" — South Coast Repertory presents its 17th annual production of "A Christmas Carol," directed by John Drouillard and starring Michael Hope as Scrooge. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 28. Closed Christmas Day. 2099 Main St., Santa Ana. Tickets are $11-$44. Call 714-556-4888 or visit scfr.org.

"Pamplona" — The Fairview Street Players present "Pamplona," a play about the 1982 bull run in Pamplona, Spain. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 8. The Studio Theatre, 2135 Fairview St., Santa Ana. Tickets are $10-$20. Call 714-541-7672 or visit fairviewstreetplayers.com.

"The Sound of Music" — Laguna Playhouse presents "The Sound of Music," with music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II and book by Don Davis. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 8. The Pioneer Theatre, 325 S. Laguna Ave., Laguna Beach. Tickets are $65-$79. Call 949-261-8383 or visit lagunaplayhouse.com.

"It's a Wonderful Life" — The Fallbrook Opera House presents "It's a Wonderful Life," adapted by Frank Capra and Jo Swerling from the story by Philip Van Doren Stern. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 29. The Opera House, 662-139 S. Main St., Fallbrook. Tickets are $35-$45. Call 760-728-2888 or visit fallbrookopera.org.

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East County kids to star in this year’s ‘Grinch’ at the Globe

By Eileen Sondak

About 11 years ago, the Old Globe gave San Diegans a very special Christmas gift—a musical version of Dr. Seuss’ “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” The colorful show has become a traditional holiday event at the Globe, and the show keeps getting better with age.

Last year, the production celebrated its 30th anniversary by adding three new songs, expanded dance sections, a re-designed costume for the Grinch, and a number of other exciting revisions.

As usual, local school children will play an important part in the production. A.J. Foppiano (a seventh grader from El Cajon’s Boo Hoo), Dylan McVey (a sixth grader from El Cajon’s Donny Who), Dallan Perry, a seventh grader from Santee, performs in the ensemble, and Kayla Solis (a seventh grader from Lakeside), is Annie Who.

This is Kayla’s first crack at Annie Who, although she was part of the children’s ensemble in last year’s production—and the 11-year-old performer was the only youngster in the Globe’s adult production of “The Women” earlier this year—and she did a fabulous job of holding her own among the pros. What’s different about playing Annie Who this year?

“I’m in the family group now,” Kayla enthused. “I get to do lots of singing and dancing, and it’s really fun. The show is full of Christmas cheer.”

Performing is not just children’s play to this talented youngster. Look for Kayla to appear in many more productions around town. The budding star is booked on show #2. “Yes, I love it,” she stressed.

“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, slated for 6 p.m. on Nov. 25th, 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 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 delightful 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 Who-Ville, and mock snowball fights, among other things. The kids come home with all sorts of holiday treats they create themselves. No wonder youngsters adore this unique event, and the proceeds support the Globe’s education and outreach programs. It’s a win-win situation.

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas” has already played to 350,000 children and adults over the years. As Executive Director Louis Spitali enthused, “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 beautiful Main Stage of the Old Globe, there’s plenty of time to see this beautiful production—and the adults in the cast are all top-notch professionals. Eileen Bowman—a native of East County who plays the delightfully feisty Grandma Who—has been a fixture in San Diego herself. Melinda Gilh and Steve Gunderson (Mama and Papa Who) have carved out impressive careers, and the rest of the ensemble rates high praise too.

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 icing 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 the St. James Theater on Broadway on Nov. 1, where it will remain through Jan. 8 next year. How’s that for a success story? You can get tickets for the show and the Grinch Family Experience by calling (619) 23-GLOBE.”
5 Worth the Drive

By April Bailey

Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Nov. 15-Dec. 28—The Whos of Who-ville and the “bad banana with a greasy black peel” celebrate the true meaning of the holidays in this musical adaptation of Dr. Seuss’s classic children’s book. With elaborate staging, whimsical characters, and songs “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch” and “Welcome, Christmas,” the show is great entertainment for all ages. The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego. (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623), theoldglobe.org.

Kidspace Rosebud Parade
Dec. 5—Reckless riders make traffic stop while kids, strollers, and wagons loll about during a pint-size Rose Parade along South Lake Avenue in Pasadena. Kids and their parents are invited to decorate their non-motorized vehicles for the parade from 3 to 11 a.m. by using flowers, streamers, and pennants supplied by Kidspace Children’s Museum. Parade festivities include a drawing for Rosebud king and queen. South Lake Avenue, Pasadena. 626-449-9144; kidspacemuseum.org.

Dana Point Turkey Trot
Nov. 27—At least 10,000 runners and walkers work up a hearty appetite for Thanksgiving dinner at this early morning 5K/10K run/walk that benefits the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. Youngsters can stretch their legs in the half-mile Hot to Trot Kids race. Dana Point Harbor. (949) 496-1555; turkeytrot.com.

Hanukkah Family Festival
Dec. 14—People of all backgrounds are invited to celebrate the Jewish holiday of light and freedom at this annual event, which includes music, art workshops, storytelling, performing arts, and Hanukkah foods. The festival’s theme, Immigration to America, complements the Skirball’s current exhibition, “Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration.” Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles. (310) 440-4500; skirball.org.

Lula Washington Dance Theatre’s Kwanzaa Festival
Dec. 28—to celebrate Kwanzaa, the African-American and Pan-African cultural observance, this uplifting performance of traditional African dances incorporates the rhythms of master drummers from West Africa. During performances, dancers light seven Kwanzaa candles to honor the holiday’s seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Lewis Family/Playhouse, Rancho Cucamonga. (909) 477-2752; lewisfamilyplayhouse.com.

Please note: Events and times are subject to change. Call the numbers listed for information.
Local students cast in ‘Grinch’

SAN DIEGO — A number of North County students have been cast in the Old Globe Theatre’s 13th annual production of the “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” to run Nov. 25-Dec. 30 at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park.

Local cast members include: Skylar Starks as Cindy-Lou Who, San Elijo Elementary, San Marcos; Benjamin Shaffer as Danny Who, Flora Vista Elementary, Carlsbad; Tommy Twomey as Boo Who, Stone Ranch Elementary, Rancho Bernardo; Allison Norwood as Betty Lou Who, Carmel Valley Middle School, Carmel Valley; Madison Simpson as Annie Who, Del Mar Elementary, Del Mar; Allison Ma, child ensemble, El Camino Creek Elementary, Carlsbad; Ashley Twomey, child ensemble, Westview High School, Rancho Penasquitos; Lucia Vecchio, child ensemble, Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary, Encinitas; and Roma Watkins, child ensemble, privately schooled, Ramona.

Performance times and tickets: www.TheOldGlobe.org; (619) 23-GLOBE.
Theater gives Christmas an early start

On the Agenda
By Rebecca Go

SAN DIEGO — Although Thanksgiving is still more than a week away, Christmas is already in the air with holiday plays kicking off their opening weeks.

The North Coast Repertory Theatre shows “The Velveteen Rabbit.” The Old Globe Theatre brings back an old favorite with “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

Diversary Theatre takes a bit of a risqué, burlesque approach with “Brooque in the Rough.” The San Diego City Council holds a public hearing at 2 p.m. Monday at the city administration building to consider proposed adjustments in water rates.

For more information, call the Water Department at 619-263-2000.

The Women’s Global Network raises funds for the Global Business Partners Microfinance Program on Monday at its beauty event, featuring beauty services, products and education as well as appetizers, beverages and a silent auction. For more information, visit wgn-global.com and click on “Calendar of Events.”

CommNeXx looks into how tax law affects business Tuesday at a breakfast event from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Station at Liberty Station. Attendees will receive updates on the current state of the economy and the market, and there will be a panel discussion on how to prepare for the upcoming tax season. For more information, call 619-263-2000.

San Diego Metroplis Credit Union advises its customers in its free financial workshop Tuesday on “Managing Your Finances Online.” Attendees will also learn how to use the innovative new features of online banking and other services from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To RSVP, call 619-279-0789 or e-mail workshops@sdmcu.org.

The National Press Club celebrates its centennial Tuesday with a forum on “The First Amendment, Freedom of the Press and the Future of Journalism” from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A panel of journalists will take questions from the audience. For tickets, visit sdpressclub.org.

Wednesday is GIS Day, an event that showcases geographic information technology at locations around the world. Schools and businesses in La Jolla, San Marcos and San Diego are opening their doors for presentations and informational sessions to share GIS technology. To find an event near you, visit GISDay.com.

Bloom keeps participating companies current with its Wednesday event from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on the regulatory environment and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Institute of Management Consultants sponsors an interactive workshop on government contracts Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the San Diego Convention Center. The featured speakers will help businesses take the first steps toward doing business in the government market. For more information, visit imc.org and register by Tuesday.

Petitt Kohn Ingrassia & Lati FC holds its second annual Employment Law Symposium on Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the U.S. Courthouse. Attendees will focus on the latest developments in employment law, including compliance issues, management and business strategies, and the role of the employer in the workplace. For more information, visit ptllaw.com.

Grossmont College opens its Career Expo on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. More than 120 exhibitors will be on hand to peruse resumes. For more information, visit grossmont.edu/career-expo.

National University honors some of San Diego’s best businesses and organizations Wednesday at the 2008 Peak Performance Awards from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The winners have been selected from more than 50 nominees. To reserve a seat at the luncheon, call 619-643-8955. For more information, visit nsdl.com/microsco/peakperformance.

San Diego Metroplis Credit Union offers another free financial workshop Wednesday, this time on “Budgeting Basics” from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Attendees will learn the basics of budgeting and how to plan for the future. For more information, visit sdmcu.org.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Tijuana Economic Development Corp. honor cross-border relations Wednesday with its fourth annual Inter-American Business Awards Luncheon, starting at 11:30 a.m. The event will honor companies and organizations with facilities in both Tijuana/Rosarito and San Diego County that have benefited both areas. For more information, visit sdrcc.org.

The University of San Diego honors University of Rome professor Paolo Guerrieri for its MBA International Speaker Series on December 15. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn about the latest global trends and developments in the field of business management. For more information, visit usd.edu.

Celebrate science literacy and education as well as NASA’s 50th anniversary with the “Science of the Future” program at the San Diego Air & Space Museum from 9-3 p.m. The event will feature interactive exhibits, workshops and demonstrations. For more information, visit sdasm.org.
THEATER: GRAND THEFT

You know who returns to the stage this holiday season for "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The touching tale that makes all our hearts grow is at the Old Globe tomorrow through Dec. 28. Call: (619) 234-5623.
4S Ranch Brother/Sister Team are Brother/Sister “Who” in Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas

America's favorite holiday fable, Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas, is back for its eleventh incredible year. This wonderful, whimsical production will once again jump right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the Old Globe stage. Come take part in the fun as The Globe is transformed into snow-covered Whoville right down to the last can of Who-hash!

Nine-year-old Tommy Twomey, who attends Stone Ranch Elementary School, will be playing the role of brother Boo Who. This is his third year in the cast of this delightful holiday production, his prior two years as a member of the Little Who Ensemble. For Tommy, the most exciting part of being in Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas this year is being able to share the stage with his older sister, Ashley, who has been his inspiration and mentor in everything musical theater.

Big sister, Ashley, is a junior at Westview High School and this is her second year performing in this wonderful musical in the role of "Bootsie" the only Teen Who in the show. In addition to her own role, she is also responsible for “wrangling” the younger children. As wrangler, she serves to mentor the younger children, makes sure they are in places for their cues, and also serves as dance captain to the Little Who’s.

Shows run from Saturday, November 15–Sunday, December 28 and tickets are on sale now at 619-234-5623 or at www.theoldglobe.com.
You’re a Generous One, Mr. Grinch

Imperial Beach Students Are Treated To Dr. Seuss Holiday Classic

By Pete Salisbury

Second graders from Imperial Beach Oceanside Elementary School were treated to the holiday classic "Dr. Seuss How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" courtesy of The Grinch Children’s Initiatives as The Old Globe Theatre presents its annual holiday production now in its 11th year.

The Grinch Initiatives is part of the Old Globes education and outreach programs that captures the spirit of the season and the production by giving back to the community. Designed to reach underserved families and children throughout San Diego County, the Grinch Free Tickets Program offers approximately 4,000 students to see this delightful holiday show.

The Old Globe was given the rights to produce Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! as a gift from Audrey Geisel honoring her late husband, Theodore "Dr. Seuss" Geisel. Her intention was that it be a holiday gift to all of the people of San Diego, particularly children.

Arriving at Balboa Park after a short bus ride the students from Mrs. Urbi’s, Mrs. Palma’s, Mrs. Mora’s and Mrs. Miller’s second grade classes took the short walk toward The Old Globe Theatre where one student shouted that he saw the Grinch peeking out a window at him. Soon the children’s eyes were darting everywhere trying to spy this green monster. Lining the path outside The Old Globe are larger than life Seuss-like cutouts which leads to a towering Christmas tree obviously decorated by the residents of Whoville and it is here where school classes from around San Diego County stop to take their group pictures.

Seven year old Leyla Tenero from Mrs. Urbi’s class knew what the play was all about “The Grinch” she whispered as she sat down in the 600 seat theatre “doesn’t like Christmas. He’s mean!” her classmate Jackie Gonzalez described the Grinch with a little terror in her voice "He’s green with spiky hair!” They both were excited hoping the rumor that it would snow during the show would come true.

The audience consisting entirely of San Diego County elementary school-age children and their chaperones were treated to the full production, paying customers or not the children were presented with a Broadway worthy performance.

The Grinch played convincingly by Kevin Bailey had the children alert to his every appearance, whether it was just his furry three fingered hand or his kicking feet protruding from a Whoo-choo chimney, to his menacing slide down the stage wall or his mad dash up the theatre aisle.

The “I Hate Christmas Eve” musical number had them jumping in their seats as on stage the Little Who’s stomped, banged, sang and created such a clamor that one might of offered some sympathy to the old Grinch unused to such doings. Danny Who, played by Benjamin Shaffer got the boys in the audiences’ attention as he skated about the stage creating mayhem on his “Heely” skate shoes; the boys probably wishing that Santa would bring them a pair for Christmas.

At the finale the children learned that the snow rumor was true as snow was drifted down like snow from the ceiling.

Following the musical the children ate their sack lunches in a grassy area in the park and between bits of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and pizza lunches the children expressed their thoughts about the musical, Joel Torres said "When it started I thought it was going to be scary but it wasn’t”, Jason Capron gushed "It was awesome. No it was super-duper awesome.” Sean Rhoades admitted “I couldn’t even close my eyes.”

Everyone finally agreed the show was “super-duper awesome.”

“Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” plays at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park now through December 28, 2008. Phone (619) 234-5623.
Holiday Happenings

As we prepare for Thanksgiving feasts, visiting family, and cool winter weather, holiday plans are inevitably on our minds. Join in the spirit of the season with family and friends at one of the many events San Diego offers celebrating this festive time of year.

Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Celebrate Christmas with Cindy Lou Who in How the Grinch Stole Christmas, now in its 11th year at the Old Globe Theatre. The spectacular costumes and set transform the stage into snow-covered Who-ville, down to the last can of Who-bash. The show will run November 15 through December 28 and tickets range in price from $19-$79. Bring your family to the November 16 performance and attend the third annual Christmas tree lighting in Old Globe Plaza before the show. (619/23-GLOBE, www.oldglobetheatre.org)

Ice Skating
We may not have Rockefeller Center, but how can you beat ice skating while overlooking the Pacific Ocean? Beginning November 23 and continuing through January 3, the Hotel Del Coronado will transform its oceanfront Windsor Lawn into a spectacular ice rink and offer daily two- and three-hour skating sessions. You can strap on your own skates or rent a pair for $5. A portion of the skating proceeds will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego. For times and prices, please visit the Web site. (800/HOTEL-DL, www.hoteldel.com)

You can also soak up the downtown holiday atmosphere as you take a spin on the ice at Horton Plaza, nestled between Horton Plaza and the NBC 7/39 studios. Open November 20 through January 4, Syn查斯 Fantasy on Ice outdoor rink will raise money for the Cancer Care Center at Rady Children’s Hospital. Admission is $12 for adults and $10 for children for a two-hour session. (www.syn查斯.com)

The Nutcracker
As soon as you read the words The Nutcracker, odds are one of the many songs immediately sounds off in your head. Whether you hear the cheerful trumpets that begin the “March” of the Nutcracker or the soft twirling of the “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy,” this festive score by Tchaikovsky is sure to get you into the holiday spirit. Believe the story once again or share the magic with your children for the first time as you enjoy the fantastical tale told with stunning choreography and colorful costumes. As one of the most beloved holiday productions, numerous groups will perform.
the show throughout Southern California, offering a range of interpretations and show dates.

Fascinated after the original choreography of Russian Lev Ivanov, City Ballet of San Diego’s performance of The Nutcracker will run at Spreckels Theatre for two successive weekends — December 5-7 and 12-24. (858/377-8663, cityballet.org) In production for its 10th year, San Diego Ballet will perform this classic at USD’s Mandell Auditorium December 18-21. (619/544-1000, www.sandiegoballet.org) California Ballet Company will take the stage with the San Diego Symphony at Civic Theatre December 19-23. (858/550-0741, www.calsafes.com) Showcasing young ballet artists ages 6-26, Maple Youth Ballet will perform a contemporary version of The Nutcracker at the Northwood Performing Arts Theater December 20-22. (858/559-9980, www.mapleconservatory.com)

Hanukkah Happening
Join in the fun at San Diego’s largest Hanukkah event for families at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center. This year’s event takes place on December 14 and features games, craft booths, live music, great food, and more. Kids will have the opportunity to have their photos taken with Cinderella and Batman, and jump in bounce houses — a theme street-themed house for little ones, and a pillow jump for big kids with a matching slide and two-lane obstacle course. (858/457-3010, www.ljcc.org)

San Diego Bay Parade Of Lights
Cruise down to the San Diego Bay and pick a spot along the Embarcadero for a great view of the 37th Annual Parade of Lights, held this year on December 14 and 21. This festive event boasts over 100 boats covered with lights, holiday displays, special effects, and music to this year’s theme, Rock ‘n Roll Around The Bay. Fireworks kick off the show at 5:30pm and the boats make their way around the bay until 9pm. Other great viewpoints include Harbor Island, Coronado Island, and Seaport Village, and the show will last about an hour and a half from the time it reaches your vantage point. (www.sdparadeoflights.org)

Kwanzaa Celebration
Families of all ages are invited to attend The World’s Oldest Cultural Center’s Kujichagui, or “self-determination” celebration honoring African-American heritage on December 27. Festivities at the Balboa Park location will include a Kwanzaa feast, the lighting of candles, a film screening of The Black Candle by M.K. Asante, Jr., speakers on the principles of Kwanzaa, and performances by Worldboat’s Malika Drum and Dance Troupe. (619/232-9000, www.worldboatcenter.org)

Holiday Of Lights
Over 400 twinkling displays of lights will greet you at the Holiday of Lights at Del Mar, the largest animated drive-through light show on the West Coast. Drive around the racetrack at the Del Mar Fairgrounds and enjoy the thousands of sparkling lights from the comfort of your car. Themed displays include Candy Cane Lane, Toyland, San Diego County Fair, Del Mar Race Track, the Twelve Days of Christmas, and Elves at Play, all set to festive holiday music. Last year the event drew in over 30,000 vehicles. The show runs from November 27 through January 4 and tickets cost $14 per car for up to five people. (www.sdfair.com)
Parades
The Encinitas Holiday Parade set for December 6 will kick off with a tree-lighting ceremony at 5pm in the Lumberyard courtyard on Coast Highway 101. The parade will begin at 5:30pm, heading south along Coast Highway 101 from D Street to J Street. This year’s theme is A Storybook Holiday, celebrating literary works of the holiday season with over 100 impressive parade entries representing favorite holiday stories and characters. (760/432-2740)

Enjoy the 51st annual La Jolla Christmas Parade, which welcomes over 20,000 spectators each year as it makes its way along Girard Avenue and Prospect Street. Over 1,200 people from all over San Diego participate in the parade as members of marching bands, ROTC units, drill teams, dancers, scout troops, float builders, equestrians, car aficionados, politicians, and pranksters. Themed History on Parade, the parade will begin at 3pm on December 7 and will be followed by a Christmas festival at the La Jolla Recreational Center as well as a tree-lighting ceremony at 8pm. (www.lajparade.com)

Tree Lightings
Speaking of tree lightings, on November 20, Santa arrives at the 27th annual tree lighting ceremony at Town Center Park adjacent to The Westin South Coast Plaza. Beginning at 6pm, the event will include the lighting of over 20,000 lights on the 95-foot tree, entertainment by the Orange County High School of the Arts, and a special gift from Santa to all attendees. (714/435-2000, www.southcoastplaza.com)

The California Center for the Arts, Escondido, will host its Fourth Annual Holiday Tree Lighting and Winter Wonderland on December 6 from 5-7pm. The fun event has activities for the whole family including real snow to play in, pictures with Santa, carolers and a sing-along, hot cocoa and cookies, holiday shopping at the gift shop, interactive educational activities for kids, and special appearances by the actors from the center’s 'Tis No No A Pirate’s Christmas. (800/988-4353, www.ccarts.org)

Christmas Movies
Christmas movies are a holiday staple. Only in December can you sing along to your old copy of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer or laugh as Clark Griswold turns down his Christmas tree. This year, some new holiday movies are being added to the vault. When twas the plan go merry in Four Christmases (opening November 26). Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn attempt to visit each of their divorced parents and the all-star cast takes them for a wild holiday ride. Another family-focused film, Waiting for the Holiday, will hit theaters December 12. For families who enjoy going to the movie theater on Christmas Day, Disney’s Bedtime Stories offers up a new fairy tale telling as Ashen Sandifer becomes part of his children’s favorite stories. Marley & Me centers on an adorable but mischievous puppy who has a knack for teaching brother and sister (Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston) important life lessons. Christmas Day releases also include Frank Miller’s The Spirit and The Curious Case of Benjamin Button starring Brad Pitt. And of course you can always settle in at home with good food and family and enjoy one of the classics. A Christmas Story, anyone? — the authors
give thanks for entertainment

San Diego's entertainment community continues to provide some relief from the stress of the financial crisis, offering audiences a cornucopia of ideas for enjoying an evening of theater, music or dance. Count these among your Thanksgiving blessings this year.

The San Diego Symphony's winter season plays through November, with concerts at Symphony Hall. On Nov. 1, Marvin Hamlisch will conduct "Hymned" Hamlisch," followed on Nov. 2 by "Symphony Serenade" (part of the kids-oriented Family Festival series, led by conductor Philip Mann). Maestro Peter Oundjian will conduct a three-piece concert Nov. 7-9, and John Lang returns to the podium Nov. 14-15 with the Renaissance guitar quartet. Winter Pops completes the month Nov. 20 with a special performance by Jose Feliciano and the Flamenco Company, a spectacle of music and dance.

La Jolla Playhouse director Christopher Ashley follows up his successful inaugural production ("Mississippi") with "Zarauza," another period musical. This show (set in Venice Beach in 1930) chronicles the journey of a magical Greek island, who descends from the heavens and lands in Californial. His mission is to inspire a struggling artist. "Zarauza" is a side-splitting, roller-skating musical adventure with a pop rock score, and it came here right from its Broadway run. Sounds like fun for the whole family! The show will remain at the Mandell Weiss Theater through Dec. 21.

The Old Globe takes a holiday in November, but not from its annual "Grinch" show. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," a heartwarming musical and-deck-handicapped telling of the Dr. Seuss story, will raise over the Globe's Main Stage Nov. 25, where it will stay until Dec. 28. With lively music by Mel Marvin and lyrics by Tommy Steiner, this Seuss-ification is a treat that enchant kids of all ages. The children can make a day of it Dec. 7 and experience lunch, entertainment and Grinch-themed arts and crafts projects. The Grinch Family Experience usually sells out, so get your hands early.

Broadway-San Diego is presenting a comedy about the sexes at the Balboa (Nov. 11-16). "Defending the Caveman," written by comedian Rob Becker, is humorous and full of insights into male-female relationships. If you missed it the first time around, here's your chance. The organization will unveil the multi-award-winning musical "The Color Purple" at the Civic Theater Dec. 2 for a weeklong run.

The California Center for the Arts in Escondido kicks the month with a performance by the San Diego Symphony Nov. 6. Maestro Peter Oundjian will conduct works by Wagner, Saint-Saens and Bartok. The 29th Annual Petco Mix Spelling Bee" comes to the Center Nov. 8-9, followed on the 13th by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. The North Coast Repertory Theater's farcical delight "Don't Dress for Dinner" -- a French
play with mystery, mirth and magic on its mind — sweat and serious themes at the Solana Beach theater this month. You have until Nov. 15 to catch up with this zany song.

The Welk Resort Theater's "I Love a Piano," a tribute to Irving Berlin's unforgettable music, is set to close Nov. 8, but it's not too late to snag a ticket to this delightful song and dance piece. The show takes us back to the early 20th century to the late '50s with escapades that look back to the golden age of pop music. Welks goes into holiday mode Nov. 13 with the "Forever Floats" foursome performing "Float Along." This Trinity-oriented holiday treat will stick around through Dec. 25, and a buffet dinner is served before each performance.

Lyric Opera commemorates its 30th anniversary season with "The Daughter of the Regiment" (Nov. 14-25). This comedy about women in the armed forces is a company premiere of a classic work by Gaetano Donizetti.

The Lamb's Productions' production of "Light in the Piazza" winds down Nov. 2, but if you can still get a seat, you'll be in for a heartwarming treat. This is a show with music (not a typical musical), and it's receiving a stunning staging at the Lamb's Coronado home, with newcomer Chariton Hay Kaufman as the leading man. The Lamb's production of "Boomerang" is still entertaining audiences at the Horton Grand in downtown San Diego, and the Lamb's annual holiday offering will take over in Coronado Dec. 2.

Millenium Dance's "Let's Dance" will be at the Garfield Theatre in La Jolla Nov. 21-22. The show, by Emmy-winning choreographer John Hallschrodt, explores relationships of every kind. Danced to music ranging from classical to pop, "Let's Dance" encompasses works by icons such as Leonard Cohen, Philip Glass, Georges Bizet and Nick Cave. Especially striking is the premiere of a new duet for two women titled "Flight of Enrangement." For tickets call (800) 362-1348.

The San Diego Museum of Art's "Eleven Artists: Historical Figures," an exhibition closing Nov. 2, but look for an exhibition of kimono to take over the Museum of Art and the Timken in a unique collaboration for the two neighboring museums. The show, titled "Sisters in Art: The Landscapes of Bishoku Kosetsu," will be on exhibit at both institutions Nov. 1-Jan. 4. You can see six kimono at the Timken, and the centerpiece of the exhibition (a dramatic presentation featuring 30 kimono depicting fall and winter) occupies a special place at the Museum of Art.

The San Diego Natural History Museum's "Aerial Portraits of the American West: Photographs by John Sexton" opens Nov. 2. Instead, look for the set of wildlife artist Robert Bateman to be displayed this month (and through the end of January). "Tibet: Iconography by Kenneth Park" will be exhibited, starting Nov. 15. Parker's fine-art photographs featuring the culture and landscape of Tibet will be on view at the Museum through March 1.

The Museum of Contemporary Art's "Memory is your Image of Perfection" (featuring feminist photographic artists) remains at the downtown facility through Nov. 30, and "Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet" is a show that uses modern art to investigate the relationships between natural environments and human culture, will stay through Feb. 1.
How to carve a turkey

Gone are the Rockwellian days when everyone gathered 'round to watch the lord of the manor carve the turkey. Now you get to retire to the kitchen, but the pressure is still on. Whether you are a first-timer or want to improve your technique, we can help. E1

Multimedia: For a step-by-step video demonstration of Terra chef/owner Jeff Rossman carving a turkey, go to uniontrib.com/more/carving

Last game for 17 Aztecs

Darren Mougay arrived at San Diego State as a quarterback. He is leaving as a wide receiver. One of 17 seniors playing in (or watching) their final game tonight when the Aztecs host UNLV. Mougay has seen 41 losses in 58 games since arriving as one of the most heralded quarterbacks in the country in 2004. D1

BlackBerry Storm hot item

Customers lined up yesterday outside Verizon Wireless stores as the BlackBerry Storm, the first touchscreen phone from Research In Motion, went on sale. C1

'The Grinch,' with energy

In its 11th season at the Old Globe, there's no sign that "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" is on automatic pilot. Instead, it's propelled by energetic performances, particularly Kevin Bailey as the Grinch and Issadora Tulalian as little Cindy-Lou Who. E6

Bigger, but better?

The new Honda Pilot is now a full eight-passenger sport utility vehicle with minivan function and a can-do appearance. Pricing ranges from $28,265 2WD to $40,665 for the Touring 4WD with DVD entertainment system. L1
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**1. HATE TO TROT**
Looking for last-minute deals on designer goods? Featuring lines like Chloe & Renee, HauteDeals will have a warehouse packed with everything from lingerie and denim to shoes and accessories. Through Dec. 4, 399 El Camino Real, Encinitas, 760-943-3790, haute-deals.com.

**2. IT'S A MEAN ONE**

**3. MAX AND ALIVE**
For almost a decade, Aimee Mann has headed south to play her annual Christmas Show at the Belly Up. This year, she’s got some famous friends joining her: Nellie McKay, Grant Lee Phillips and even comedian Patton Oswalt. Dec. 5, 1435 Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140, bellyup.com.

**4. WALK IT OUT**
Everyone knows by now that South Park is officially S.D.’s “it” burg, and for over six years the neighborhood’s “Holiday Walkabout” has been the ultimate alternative to fabricated small-town gayry. Get a pre-walk drink at Whistle Stop, then do some holiday shopping at Chateau or The Grove. Then top it off with dinner at Vagabond or the newly opened El Comino, all while taking in the assorted sights and characters that make this ‘hood so holiday-spiritied. Dec. 6, All along 30th St., southparkcove.com.

**5. SHOW MEN**
Action sports fans from all over S.D. will be flocking to one of the three local theaters that’s screening ‘Wanna Miller’s Children of Winter.’ Filmed from helicopters and on the ground at multiple angles, follow a band of layered snow enthusiasts as they jet-set around the globe looking for fresh powder. Extreme, indeed. Dec. 10-14, La Paloma Theatre, Sherwood Auditorium and Carlsbad Village Theatre, 629-220-8497, whets.com/wannamiller.

**6. SNAKE ANTHONY**
With a sensual crew that appeals to both the ladies and the fellas (but mostly the ladies), Anthony Hamilton is one of contemporary R&B’s biggest talents. Dec. 12, House of Blues, 1055 5th Ave., Downtown, 619-231-7111, houseofblues.com.

**7. COMIC STRIP SWAP**

**8. DUNEBORN PARTY**
The California Bullet is on tour with the classical performance of Tchaikovsky’s holiday masterpiece, The Nutcracker. The fairy tale with one-of-a-kind characters only comes once a year so run, don’t tinkle, to get tickets. Dec. 19-23, See Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 3rd Ave., Downtown, 619-230-1100, sandiegocivictheatre.org.

**9. O.N.O. BLUES**

**10. HARD KNOCK LIFE**
After a successful revival on Broadway and rave reviews, the classic musical Aida returns to S.D. for a three-night stand at the Civic Theatre. Lepins’ rendition Jan. 9-11, 1100 3rd Ave., Downtown, 619-554-3000, broadwaypad.com.
San Diego is alive with holiday opportunities

The San Diego Ballet Company returns from its touring season to perform the family class The Nutcracker, composed by Peter Tchaikovsky. The Nutcracker will open on Thursday, December 18th and continue through Sunday, December 21st at the Mandeville Theater at the UCSD Campus. For information, call (619) 294-7311 or visit www.sandiegballet.org.

The Westwind Brass invites the public to enjoy holiday music from many countries and every era, including traditional Christmas carols, Hanukkah music and selections from a Klezmer’s Nutcracker Suite, Händel’s Messiah, as well as a few surprises. Performances are 7:30 p.m., Monday, December 8 at The Neurosciences Institute; and 7 p.m., Tuesday, December 27:30pm The North Chapel at Liberty Station.

Tickets are $25 for general admission and $15 for members, students, seniors and military.

The Old Globe will celebrate its annual “Seussabration” event on Wednesday, December 3, from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Seussabration brings 600 first graders annually from Title One San Diego schools to the Globe to see a performance of the Theatre’s annual holiday production, Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, as well as enjoy a special lunch and participate in fun activities on the Globe Plaza. Participating schools include: Fletcher Elementary, Freese Elementary, La Mesa Dale Elementary, Mission Elementary, Perkins Elementary, St. Jude Academy, Sunnyslope Elementary and Wegeforth Elementary.
The third annual tree lighting ceremony kicked off the holiday season and celebrated the opening of The Globe's annual holiday musical, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Characters from the play sang holiday carols to the guests as snow fell and the brilliantly lit tree came to life. You're not such a mean one, Mr. Grinch.

The Grinch con...
Jack O'Brien.

THE GRINCH BRINGS CHRISTMAS TO THE GLOBE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

ILUMINAN EL ÁRBOL DE NAVIDAD

La tercera iluminación anual del árbol navideño lanzó la temporada y celebró la apertura del musical Dr. Seuss Cómo El Grinch Robó la Navidad. Personajes de la obra cantaron villancicos a los invitados, mientras caía nieve y el árbol se iluminaba.

GENTE BIEN • DECEMBER 2008
5 ESCAPARATE
Winter Wonderland

6 THE GRINCH
BRINGS CHRISTMAS TO THE GLOBE
Tree lighting ceremony
THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE
1363 Old Globe Way
(619) 231-1941

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
Through Dec. 28

The classic tale of everyone's favorite holiday villain, The Grinch, and his plans to steal Christmas away from the loveable and kind-hearted inhabitants of Whoville.
HOLYDAYS

Festivals/Parades

Hanukkah Happening San Diego's largest Hanukkah event for families celebrates 25 years. Food, games, crafts, appearances by Batman and Cinderella, and more will be featured. 11 a.m. Dec. 14. Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla. $2. (858) 457-3030, www.lfjcc.org.


Lights


Holiday of Lights Drive through more than 600 sparkling light displays that line the racetrack. 5:30 p.m. daily through Jan. 4. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. $14-$19. (858) 793-5555, www.holidayoflights.com.


Music/Performances


HOLIDAY POPS! The San Diego Symphony, conducted by Matthew Garbutt, is joined by the San Diego Master Chorale, California Ballet and San Diego Children's Choir for the ultimate holiday concert. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17 and 18; 2 p.m. Dec. 20; and 2 and 5 p.m. Dec. 21. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B St. $10-$85. (619) 235-0804, www.sandiegosymphony.com.


Family Activities

PUFFET SHOW: "The Elves and the Shoemaker" will be performed at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Marie Hitchcock Playhouse Theatre, 2330 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park. Cost: $5 adults, $4 ages 65 and older, and $3 ages 2 to adult. Information: (619) 234-8209.

FREE FAMILY MOVIE: "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" will be shown at noon today at the San Diego Central Library, 3300 Ross Ave., Downtown. All ages welcome. Snacks provided. Information: (619) 234-8209.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK: Sponsored by the Wilcox Family Foundation, "Christmas in the Park" will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. today at the Balboa Park, 1549 Euclid Ave., Balboa Park. "Christmas in the Park" features live entertainers, traditional caroling and holiday foods. Information: (619) 233-9921.

FREE DWARF: "Santa's Magic" will be performed at 2 and 3:30 p.m. today at the Balboa Park, 1549 Euclid Ave., Balboa Park. Cost: $10 per child, $5 for adults. Information: (619) 234-8209.

FESTIVE DISPLAY: A holiday display will be held at the San Diego Botanic Garden, 1901 Pacific Street, Balboa Park. Information: (619) 234-8209.

CHRISTMAS PARADE: The Christmas parade will be held at 1:30 p.m. today at the Balboa Park, 1549 Euclid Ave., Balboa Park. Information: (619) 233-9921.

HOLIDAY IN A PARK: The free "Holiday in a Park" will be held at 11 a.m. today at the Balboa Park, 1549 Euclid Ave., Balboa Park. Information: (619) 233-9921.

LIBRARY EVENTS: The Rancho Peñasquitos Library, 13335 Salmon River Road, San Diego, will host the following events:
- "Hands-On Holiday" will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, December 12. Information: (619) 233-9921.
- "Winter Holiday" will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 13. Information: (619) 233-9921.
- "Christmas in the Park" will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 14. Information: (619) 233-9921.

ALL DRESSED UP: "All Dressed Up" will be held at 11 a.m. today at the Balboa Park, 1549 Euclid Ave., Balboa Park. Information: (619) 233-9921.

FREE CONCERT: "Music of the Season" will be performed at 2 p.m. today at the Balboa Park, 1549 Euclid Ave., Balboa Park. Information: (619) 233-9921.

FREE WORKSHOP: "Making Christmas Cards" will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Balboa Park, 1549 Euclid Ave., Balboa Park. Information: (619) 233-9921.

Please send items to family@uniontrib.com at least three weeks in advance.
The Week's Best Bets

The Grinch and a tree lighting

'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' opens up the holiday season Nov. 15 through Dec. 28 at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. Tickets are $19-$79 and are available by calling 619-23-GLOBE or online at www.TheOldGlobe.org. The theater will also hold its third annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16 on the Globe Plaza.

Tent and textiles on display

A Kyrgyz yurt, a Central Asian tent 22 feet in diameter (along with the robe above) are among the displays of 'Tent & Textiles of Central Asia and Iran' opening at the Mingal International Museum in Escondido, 155 West Grand Ave. The exhibit runs through March 22. For more information, visit www.mingal.org.
Kids' stuff
Compiled by Grace Krilanovich

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Benjamin Holdway Klein directs the 11th annual production of the holiday musical fable. The Old Globe, 3838 Old Globe Way, San Diego. Today, 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m.; Tues.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 3 p.m.; next Sun., 11 a.m., 2:30 and 7 p.m. 619-424-5200.
LA OBRA DEL DR. SEUSS
'HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS'
Miércoles 26 de noviembre, a partir de las 7:00 p.m.
Teatro Old Globe, Parque Balboa
Boletos disponibles en el teatro y por teléfono al (619) 234-4921 ext. 2326.

FATHER JOE’S THANKSGIVING DAY 5K,
CARRERA DEL DÍA DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS
Jueves 27 de noviembre, a partir de las 8:00 a.m.
Frente al Museo del Hombre, Parque Balboa.
Evento a beneficio de los albergues para indigentes.

CHEECH AND CHONG ‘LIGHT UP THENIGHT TOUR’
Viernes 28 de noviembre, a partir de las 7:30 p.m.
Sinfónica de San Diego 1245 Seventh Ave.,
esquina calles 7 y A) Centro de San Diego

COLECTA DE SANGRE DE LOS CHARGERS
Martes 25 de noviembre, a partir de las 9:00 a.m.
Hotel y Centro de Convenciones, Town and Country
500 Hotel Circle N., Mission Valley.
Tickets now available for Old Globe’s ‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas’

The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe recently announced the cast of the 11th 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. 15 – Dec. 28.

The cast includes Kevin Bailey as the “Grinch” (“Old Max” in the Globe’s 2006 production and “The Grinch” in the Globe’s 2007 production of How the Grinch Stole Christmas!); Martin Van Treuren as “Old Max” and Logan Lipton as “Young Max.” Reprising the roles they created in the Globe’s inaugural production are Melinda Gilb and Steve Gunderson as “Mama Who” and “Papa Who” respectively. Eileen Bowman and James Vasquez also return this year as “Grandma Who” and “Grandpa Seth Who.” Returning as “Cindy-Lou Who” is Skylar Stairs Siben, who will alternate in the role with newcomer Issadora Tulalian.

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 $29 to $79 for adults and from $19 to $59 for children (3-17 years). Last year all performances sold out and this year that trend has continued and there are already some performances with limited or no availability.
"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — The Old Globe presents its 11th annual production of this Mel Marvin Timothy Mason musical based on the holiday story by Dr. Seuss; opens Nov. 15 and runs through Dec. 28; showtimes, 7 p.m. Sundays; 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2:30 and 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego; call for ticket prices; (619) 234-8623.
緑の怪物グリンチと村人のクリスマス／Dr. スースの世界を舞台化

世界で最もクリスマスを愛する
村フーヴィルに、今年もホリデー
シーズンがやって来た。村中がお
祭り気分で盛り上がっている中、ただ一
人クリスマスを操る者があった。そ
れは、クリスマス山に住む緑色
の怪物グリンチ。ひねくれ者でいたずら好きの彼は、クリスマスを台無しにして、
村人たちを驚かししようと企てる。同じ頃、グリンチの存在が気になる村の娘シ
ンディは、地下室で本人に遭遇し、友達にしようとするけれどー。

米国の大人気絵本作家ドクター・スースによる児童書原作としたクリスマス向け
の舞台。同作品は2000年にロン・ハワード監督が実写で映画化し、シム・キャ
リーがグリンチ役を演じた。日本でも大ヒットとなっている。「グリンチ」は今年
で11年目の公演を迎えるホリデーシーズン恒例の作品で、絵本から抜け出した
ような、ユニークでカラフルな衣装で村人たちと絡まれるグリンチの
交流が織り張る。テイストは舞踏機で舞台は雪で覆われ、純白の世界が広がる。

THE GLOBE THEATRES (Old Globe Theatre), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
/ 619-239-2255  (7)。開場—11/16(土)～12/28(日)。上演—火・水・木曜：7pm、
金曜：7pm & 7pm、土曜：11am & 2:30pm & 7pm、日曜：11am & 2:30pm、デッカ
ト—$29～$52（一般）、$19～$29（3～17歳）。

http://www.oldglobe.org
NOW
PLAYING

America's favorite holiday fable, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas, is back for its 11th incredible year. A wonderful, whimsical production will once again jump right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the Old Globe stage. Original production conceived and directed by Jack O'Brien. Playing in The Old Globe Theatre Nov. 15 - Dec. 28.
“Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas”

The Old Globe presents its 11th annual production of this original Mel Marvin/Timothy Mason musical based on the holiday story by Dr. Seuss.

When: 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2:30 and 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; through Dec. 28

Where: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego

Tickets: $29-$79, adults; $19-$59, children

Call: (619) 234-5623
San Diego

| A dónde ir |

Cheech & Chong
Viernes 28.
Los boletos están agotados
Comedia. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B St., San Diego. 7:30 p.m.

Jazz latino
Sábado 29
El cuarteto del trompetista Gilbert Castellanos se presenta en Dizzy's, calles 2 y J. 8 p.m. $15, $12 estudiantes. 858.270.7467 o dizzyssandiego.com.

Guitarra y poesía
Viernes 5
El guitarrista David Maldonado y el poeta Francisco X. Alarcón se presentan en la biblioteca de Carlsbad, 3368 Eureka Place. Guitarra, 6 p.m.; poesía, 7 p.m. Gratis. 760.602.2026 o carlsbadlibrary.org.

Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Hasta el 28 de diciembre
La clásica obra de teatro navideña se presenta en The Old Globe Theatre, Parque Balboa. Varíos horarios. $29 adultos, $19 niños. theoldglobe.org.

| Exhibiciones |

Mingel International Museum
Hasta el 30 de noviembre
El museo tendrá un altar para conmemorar el Día de los Muertos. Mingel International Museum, Parque Balboa. 10 a.m. a 4 p.m. Cerrado los lunes. $7, 619.239.0003 o mingel.org.

Gods & Gold
Esta semana
San Marcos Tree Lighting, Don’t miss the spectacular lighting of the holiday tree when the Jelly Olé Elf himself climbs to the top of the tree to magically turn on the thousands of twinkling lights. Entertainment will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the tree lighting ceremony. San Marcos Community Center, 3 Civic Center Dr., San Marcos. 760-744- 9000. san-marcos.net.

7 SUNDAY
Pearl Harbor Day

Ladies Barbershop Holiday Musical. The California Note Catchers, a ladies barbershop chorus, perform holiday music barbershop style. Enjoy traditional songs as well as some you may not have heard sung by the chorus, by a quartet or a soloist. Monte Vista Village Auditorium, 2711 Massachusetts, Lemon Grove. Free, donations accepted. 619-464-3277.


8 MONDAY
Holiday of Lights. Take a drive around the spectacular 1.5-mile, drive-through light show featuring more than 400 lighted, animated scenes. Themes include Candy Cane Lane, Toyland, San Diego County Fair, Treasures by the Lake, Del Mar Racetrack, the Twelve Days of Christmas and Elves at Play. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2280 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Through Jan. 4. $14-$46. holidayoflights.com. odair.com.

11 THURSDAY

12 FRIDAY
Fiesta Navidad. The Fiesta includes wandering musicians, wagon rides, historic candlelight tours, open campfires, piñata breaking, carriage rides and extended merchant shopping hours. Old Town San Diego State Park.

(Continued on page 36)

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www.lifeafter50.com
The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park opens its 11th annual production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" Nov. 15 for a run through Dec. 28. All performances sold out last year. Tickets are $19-$79. For more, call 234-5623 or visit theoldglobe.org.