DR. SEUSS’ HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS
The Old Globe's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" is in its twelfth year performing during the holiday season in San Diego. It has proven to be a hit among families with young children, and I'm happy to report that no one's resting on their laurels: the 2009 version is a delight.

Dr. Seuss' classic story replaced annual productions of "A Christmas Carol," but there is some similarity between the two tales. Like Ebenezer Scrooge, the Grinch is lonely and crotchety and plots to ruin Christmas for those around him. And, like Scrooge, the Grinch learns that Christmas doesn't depend on spending and presents to be a merry occasion. But, while "A Christmas Carol" is essentially a ghost story, "Grinch" is aimed squarely at children.

Timothy Mason and Mel Marvin's version is narrated by a dog named Old Max (Martin Van Treuren) who recalls a time in his youth when his master, the Grinch (Jeff Skowron) devised a plan to steal Christmas from his neighbors in Whoville. The Grinch considered Christmas to be loud and annoying, so he thought that if he disguised himself as Santa Claus he could take away all of the Christmas presents and trimmings and Christmas would go away. The Grinch rigged a sleigh and disguised his dog, Max (Logan Lipton), as Prancer, the reindeer. When they got to Whoville, however, they had to contend with little Cindy-Lou Who (Shea Starrs Siben alternating with Anna Bahen), a little girl who woke up and discovered that Santa was actually in the house. Even though the Grinch managed to cart all of Whoville's Christmas up to his mountain lair, Whoville still celebrated. Observing the celebration, the Grinch decided to return what he had taken and join in the fun.

There's not a lot of plot, and what there is of it is expressed in Dr. Seuss' trademark rhymed couplets. Mr. Mason and Mr. Marvin fill the rest of the 90 minute running time with songs, twenty in all, counting reprises, and including "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," which was written for the Chuck Jones animated version that is shown regularly on television. The production team helps, too, with colorful and constantly shifting sets (by John Lee Beatty), fun costumes (by Robert Morgan), clever props (by Neil A. Holmes' crew) and even real snow (I know it's real because some fell on me).
There are also plenty of children in the cast (who are divided into a Red Group and a White Group - the Red Group played the performance I saw). All of the children in the cast come from San Diego County, and it’s a great opportunity for kids who want to sing, dance, and act above a recreational level, as all of the adults are professional actors, including Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), the only cast member to perform in each of the twelve productions of the show.

Old Globe Artistic Director Emeritus Jack O’Brien conceived and directed the original production, but it has evolved along the way, resulting in lots of credits. This year’s version is ably directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein, who is back for his third season in that role, while James Vasquez, who has been associated with the show since 2003, has restaged the choreography (original by John DeLuca, with Bob Richard providing additional choreography).

The cast brings it all to life in an energetic and vocally disciplined manner, and Mr. Lipton gets to do a lot of crowd-pleasing moves as Young Max. But, it is clear that everyone is most anxious to see the Grinch, and while Jeff Skowron performed in the Broadway version he's playing his first Grinch this season. Mr. Skowron does not disappoint: he is grouchy when needed, he interacts well with the audience, and his transformation is quite believable.

With a strong cast, tuneful music, and lots of color, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" puts everyone (even a mean old reviewer) into the holiday spirit.

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**Dates**: November 21 - December 27  
**Organization**: The Old Globe 
**Phone**: (619) 23-GLOBE  
**Production Type**: Play  
**Region**: Balboa Park
Ticket Prices: Adults: $39-$79; Children (3-17): $20-$59
URL: http://www.TheOldGlobe.org
Venue: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego

About the author: Bill Eadie is a professor of journalism and media studies at San Diego State University. He has a long-standing connection to the San Diego arts scene, having attended his first professional theatre performance in San Diego at age 13. He was smitten and has kept coming back for more ever since.

More by this author.
REVIEW: New lead actor loads up 'Grinch' with laughs

With 12 years under its belt, the Old Globe's "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" is showing no signs of age. Armed with a wonderful new actor in the title role and the most precious of Cindy-Lous to melt his heart, this endearing storybook musical may well be worth another visit this holiday season.

Based on the 1957 Dr. Seuss book about a foul-tempered, green-furred, mountain-dwelling monster who's so lonely and jealous of the Christmas celebration in the village of Who-ville below that he decides to dress up as Santa, costume his loyal dog Max as a reindeer and sneak into Who-ville on Christmas Eve to steal all of the Whos' presents, trees and decorations.

What he doesn't realize, though, is that the Christmas spirit has nothing to do with presents or Christmas trees, but the joy of giving, love and togetherness. Transformed by the Whos' forgiveness and generosity, the Grinch saves Christmas and becomes an honorary Who. The musical is told as a memory tale by the elderly Max, who has grown old and is leaving Who-ville for doggie retirement.

First produced in 1998, "The Grinch" has a book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and an original score by Mel Marvin (supplemented over the years with songs like "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Fah Who Doraze" from the '66 TV special). Conceived and originally directed by Jack O'Brien, the Old Globe's artistic director emeritus, the musical had a fairy-tale quality with cartoony sets and costumes that looked just like the whimsical drawings of Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, whose La Jolla-based widow, Audrey Geisel, worked closely with O'Brien to bring the story to life.

Among the 100-minute musical's magical touches are tiny Seussian puppets singing holiday carols, strangely bulbous curled wigs and buglike costumes, cascades of snowflakes over the audience, a "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" sing-along and a wonderful special effect showing the Grinch's sled racing down the mountain toward Whoville.

Since local audiences are familiar with the "Grinch" musical (which was slightly retooled in 2007 with some new songs, staging, costumes and makeup), what makes each new production special is how new actors reinterpret the songs and story to make it fresh. This year's surprise is Jeff Skowron in the role of the Grinch. As the youngest actor to play the role at the Globe, he brings a springy, youthful energy to the part, and his rubbery face, expressive eyes, vast vocal range (from the deepest bass to the highest falsetto), twitchy, quirky physicality and audience interaction make him the funniest Grinch yet.

Adorable 6-year-old Shea Starrs Siben steps into the part of Cindy-Lou Who (a role her older sister, Skylar, played for a couple of seasons). The diminutive actress is remarkably poised, on key and in character for such a young girl. (Siben alternates performances with 9-year-old actress Anna Bahen.)

Logan Lipton and Martin Van Treuren return in the roles of the Grinch's long-suffering dog, Young Max and Old Max, respectively. They don't look at all alike, but they're each very fine in their roles. "Grinch" vets Steve Gunderson returns for the seventh time as goofy Papa Who, and Eileen Bowman marks her 12th year as nutty Grandma Who. Kurt Norby's back for his second year as dotty Grandpa Who, and Anne Fraser Thomas makes her debut as Mama Who. Completing the cast is a diverse mix of local actors young and old who ably carry off the nimble timing and whimsical look and feel of the show (restaged by director Benjamin Endsley Klein and choreographer James Vasquez).

If you've seen "Grinch," you may think you've seen it all, but I've seen it a half-dozen times and for me, its charm, warmth and off-kilter sensibility never gets old. Add to that Skowron's hilarious lead performance, and you've got a holiday memory in the making.

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

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; 11 a.m., 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. Sundays; through Dec. 27

Where: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego
Tickets: $39-$79, adults; $20-$59, children ages 3 to 17
Info: 619-234-5623
Web: www.theoldglobe.org

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The Old Globe's 'Grinch' is sure to bedazzle you
Dec 2, 2009
By Diana Saenger

Who likes Christmas? Who likes the Grinch?
Everyone who attends The Old Globe's 12th production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" - that's Who!

The delightful show, which runs through Dec. 27, is based on the classic holiday book and gets more magical every year.

Directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein, with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, this show has all the favorite elements audiences have adored in past performances, plus a few new surprises to keep it fresh.

The funny-looking people of Whoville bring laughs and smirks in their whimsical costumes designed by Robert Morgan. From the amusing lampshade-looking attire on the women, to the men's outfits that appear as upside down teapots, it's a new silly scene every moment. It's hard to keep an eye on all the antics going on while watching the Whos' curled-up toes or checking out the stiff spikes in their hairdos.

Of course, the charming Cindy Lou Who (Shea Starks Siben - alternate nights Anna Bahen), dressed in an adorable sheer dress with curly locks down her back, steals the show. The six-year-old Siben stunned Globe patrons each time she sang solos with perfect pitch, and an amazing stage presence as if she had performed the role many times before.

Also a big hit is, of course, Max the dog. Logan Lipton played the happy puppy last year and his performance is so natural with his little yelps, his rollovers and general flapping around the stage. It's older Max (Martin Van Treuren) who narrates a lot of the story as he recalls his days as the young puppy. Treuren, who played the role in 2007 and ’08, can wag with the best of
Little folks become wide-eyed when the mean old Grinch (Jeff Skowron) slinks on stage to sing "I Hate Christmas." Luckily there are plenty of happy songs - "It's the Thought that Counts," "Now's the Time" to keep everyone in a good mood. And when Cindy Lou Who sings "Santa for a Day" not only do playgoers' hearts melt, so does the Grinch's. Skowron turns in a one-of-a-kind performance as the green creature with the Santa hat. He owns that role from beginning to end with an amazing enthusiasm.

The incredible music, the characters streaming on and off stage in the aisles, and the wet snow that falls on part of the audience are sensational elements that complete the perfection of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Whether seeing it for the 12th time or the first, the audiences' eyes tell the truth about this show - it's pure magic.

'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!'
When: Through Dec. 27
Where: The Old Globe Theater, Balboa Park
Tickets: $20-$79
(619) 234-5623,
www.oldglobe.org
Family Day: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 20. Pre- and post-show photos with the Grinch, refreshments and activities.
Cindy-Lou Who (Shea Starrs Siben), The Grinch (Jeff Scowron), Young Max (Logan Lipton) and all of Who-ville celebrate the gift of Christmas in Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, at The Old Globe, Nov. 21 - Dec. 27, 2009. (Photo by Craig Schwartz)

For 12 years, The Old Globe Theater in San Diego has brought one of the most beloved, modern Christmas stories to life. And, for 12 years, audiences have delighted in the splendid wickedness of the Grinch.

Based on Dr. Seuss’ whimsical tale of a mean, green creature bent on hijacking Christmas from the families of Whoville, the theatrical version is delivered by a vibrant, pitch-perfect cast that look as though they have literally stepped off the page.

The set, props and costumes follow the crazy, wavy lines of Geisel’s original illustrations. The color scheme of black, pink, white and red, as in the book, portrays the fresh and festive look of a peppermint stick.

Jeff Scowron as the Grinch finds a way to endear his character to the audience with humor and an underlying vulnerability. The audience jeers at his deceit, but then willingly cheers as his heart expands with love and the spirit of Christmas.

Directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein and featuring a lively score by composer Mel Marvin, this is one holiday tradition that is well worth the commute for Southwest Riverside theater-goers.

“What Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas” runs through Dec. 27 at The Old Globe Theater in San Diego. For tickets or to learn more, visit www.TheOldGlobe.org or call (619) 23-GLOBE.

Kerri S. Mabee can be reached at ksmabee.swrnn@gmail.com with comments or questions. Follow me on Twitter at SWRNNaelife.

Tags: Benjamin Endsley Klein, dr. seuss, Jeff Scowron, SWRNN, The Old Globe Theater, Uncategorized

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‘Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas,’ ‘Camino Real’: Theater reviews, news

Find out about Cygnet, SDSU, the "Group of Four" and more

By Pat Launer, SDNN

Wednesday, December 2, 2009  no comments  |  be the first to comment!

Logan Lipton (left) as Young Max and Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!"
(Photo by Craig Schwartz)

You're a Green One, Mr. Grinch!

THE SHOW: “Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” the family favorite, in song (book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin), at the Old Globe Theatre

Is it my imagination, or has anyone else noticed that, as the world has gotten more scary, the Grinch has gotten less so?

The very first musical Grinch (1998) was Guy Paul, who had a decidedly nasty demeanor and a frightening, Gene Simmons-like serpentine tongue. He actually made some little ones cringe. The latest Grinch, Jeff Skowron, also makes the kids scream - with laughter. He's very funny, and he's got a gorgeous basso voice, as well as some pretty nifty moves. So, while he doesn't make the most profound of Scrooge transformations, he does entertain, to the max — or, the Max, which is the name of his dog, played delightfully, in young and older versions, by frisky Logan Lipton and bemused, nostalgic Martin Van Treuren (who was in the Broadway version of the show in 2007 and 2008).
The show, which still looks like an energized, pop-up, 3-D embodiment of the book (wonderfully imaginative set by John Lee Beatty and costumes by Robert Morgan), has undergone a number of changes over the years, since Jack O'Brien first co-conceived and directed it. First (very wise move), the songs from the animated film were added in (including the ever-popular “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch”). The paean to crass commercialism, “Last-Minute Shopping” was replaced with a gentler, more apt message: “It’s the Thought That Counts.” The borrowings from the Broadway rendition (2007-8) make the whole endeavor seem more schmaltzy and contrived, less pure and sweet than the original. The Grinch has changed his appearance, too; his costume is less shaggy, his face isn’t very green or furry or foreboding.


THE DETAILS: Tickets: $39-$79 for adults; $20-$29 for children age 3-17. Tuesday-Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., through December 27.

NOTE: No 8 p.m. performance on 12/5; no performance 12/10 or 12/25. Additional performances at 5 p.m. on Dec. 5, 12, 19.

THE BOTTOM LINE: BEST BET

Tennessee Williams’ “Camino Real” at UCSD. (Courtesy photo)

Wonderful Tennessee

THE SHOW: “Camino Real,” a 1953 play by Tennessee Williams, at UC San Diego

It was a wild departure for Tennessee Williams. Both loved and loathed. Theater critics dubbed it his best play (Clive Barnes) and his absolute worst (Walter Kerr). It was a whopping failure when it opened on Broadway in 1953. Close on the heels of his stupendous successes (“The Glass Menagerie,” “A Streetcar Named Desire,” “The Rose Tattoo”), the hallucinatory drama baffled and confounded audiences. It still does. But a too-short-lived, jaw-dropping production at UCSD provides a don’t-miss opportunity.

The setting is a run-down, mythical town, a purgatory where doomed archetypes, fictional and literary, gather to contemplate advancing age, impending irrelevance and maintaining hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.

First to arrive is the delusional knight, Don Quixote, who’s immediately abandoned by his not-so-loyal squire, Sancho Panza. He spends the rest of his time searching for a new companion.

Along the way, we meet the coughing courtesan Camille (Marguerite Gautier from “La Dame aux Camélias”), the poet Lord Byron, the womanizer Casanova, the seductive, repeatedly-wed virginal gypsy, Esmeralda (from “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”) and, at the center of it all, a young American, Kilroy, a washed-up, former Golden Gloves boxer named for the World War II icon. He pines for the “one true woman” he left behind when his heart, “larger than a baby’s head,” gave out. All these fragile romantics are made inert by their own inadequacies, trapped in a hellish place they barely try to escape, fearful of the vast expanse of nothingness that lies beyond.

The non-linear story, if there is one (some see the play as Don Quixote’s dream, but that wasn’t a strong feature of this production) proceeds in a series of dreamlike “blocks” along the Camino Real (a distinction is made between the Spanish-inflected “royal road” and the titular locale which, the playwright asserts, should be pronounced “CAM-inno Reel”), a place where tattered reality confronts royal illusions. A cruelly cynical, dictatorial hotelier presides over the place, abetted by heavily armed henchmen and a trio of “Street Cleaners” who hover like jackals, ready to snatch up corpses and haul them away underground.

At UCSD, a stellar graduate design team has fashioned an aptly decrepit, decaying environment. The crumbling pillars and the ruins of a finely tiled fountain surround a circular staircase exteriors and interiors of the place and its inhabitants. The lighting (3rd year MFA James Tan) is stunning, ranging from shadows to spots and floods, with marvelously dimensional projections of building facades. A thrumming sound (2nd year MFA Omar Ramos) underscores the action, unnerving the observers.

Pat Launer
The Grinch has been stealing Christmas for the past fifty-two years, ever since the now classic Dr. Seuss children's book first hit the stands, yet who would have thought then that the grumpily cave-dweller with a heart "two sizes too small" would go on to conquer the small screen (in a 1966 animated special featuring the voice of Boris Karloff as the Grinch), the big screen (Jim Carrey played the hairy Green One in 2000), and even Broadway (in musical theater form in 2006 and '07)? Not even Dr. Seuss himself could have imagined such a future for his 1957 picture book.

The Grinch is of course the grouch turned green with envy at the sight of all those Whos just bursting with holiday excitement, while he sits crankily atop Mount Crumpit with only his faithful dog Max to keep him company. With a chip this big on his green shoulder, what's a Grinch to do but steal every one of their holiday presents and decorations and thereby "prevent Christmas from coming?" Unfortunately, mean old Mr. Grumpy didn't reckon with getting caught in the act by little Miss Cindy-Lou Who—or being mistaken for none other than ... Santy Claus!

The Broadway version of How The Grinch Stole Christmas, with its book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, began its life in Minneapolis in 1994. It's at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, however, that the musical has had its greatest and most noteworthy success, and it is to the Old Globe that How The Grinch Stole Christmas has now returned for its twelfth consecutive year of charming and delighting audiences of all ages.

In the musical version's most noteworthy innovation, book writer Mason created the role of Old Max, the elderly incarnation of the Grinch's faithful pooch, who narrates the tale with all those great Dr. Seuss rhymes like: "'I know just what to do!' The Grinch laughed in his throat. And he made a quick Santy Claus hat and a coat. And he chuckled, and clucked, 'What a great Grinchy trick! 'With this coat and this hat, I look just like Saint Nick!'"

How The Grinch Stole Christmas's eleven songs include TV special's two most famous numbers, "Welcome Christmas (Fah Who Doraze)" and "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch," (music by Albert Hague) as well as the Mason/Marvin creations "Who Likes Christmas?", "I Hate Christmas Eve," "Santa For A Day," and a pair of songs added in 2007, "This Time Of Year" and "It's The Thought That Counts." (You'd think that after twelve years, a cast recording would have been released, but alas, no such luck.)

The 2009 production introduces Broadway's Jeff Skowron in his first Old Globe appearance in the title role, and what a tour-de-force performance it is. Deliciously dastardly, delightfully over-the-top, and cute as can be, Skowron is a Grinch par excellence, and no more so than in the Fosse-esque number "One Of A Kind," a guaranteed show-stopper.

The wonderful Martin Van Treuren returns to the Globe for his third year as the wise and wizened canine, Old Max. Young Max is Broadway's Logan Lipton, from the original cast of Wicked, and a more adorable performance (or performer) is hard to imagine. At the performance reviewed here, Shea Starrs Siben was Cindy-Lou Who, so cute and cuddly that no Grinch could resist her tiny tot charms. (All the children's roles have been double cast to allow the pre-teens time to be kids.)

Appearing as Cindy-Lou Who's family are Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Anne Fraser Thomas (Mama Who), Kürt Norby (Grandpa Who), and record-breaking 12-year Grinch vet Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who)—and what a terrific quartet of triple threats they are, even hidden under Who wigs and behind Who makeup.

The kids in the "Red Group" (reviewed here) are a talented bunch indeed: A.J. Foggiano (Danny Who), Gaby Greenwald (Betty-Lou Who), Dylan Nalbandian (Boo Hoo), Allison Grace Norwood (Annie Who), Alexis Louise Young (Teen Who), and the Little Whos: Aaron Acosta, Felicity Bryant, Karli Cruise, and Shianne Evans.

Completing the cast as the Grown-up Whos (as well as understudying leading roles) are the multitalented Amy Biedel, Ashley Fox Union, Erik McEwen, Jordan Miller, Michael Mendez, Anise Ritchie, and swing James Vasquez.

Benjamin Endsley Klein holds the directorial reins for his third year in a row, doing a splendid job of carrying on the work of Jack O'Brien, who conceived and directed the original Old Globe production. Dance captain Vasquez has lovingly restaged John Delucia's original (and by that I do mean original) choreography, with additional choreography credited to Bob Richard. Musical director John Samorian conducts the show's topnotch eight-piece orchestra.
If ever there was a musical’s design team who should get above-the-title billing, it’s How The Grinch Stole Christmas’s scenic designer John Lee Beatty and costume designer Robert Morgan, who bring the original Dr. Seuss vision to vivid red, pink, black, and white life, the Grinch’s green innovation of the TV special. Properties director Neil Holmes has created the show’s authentically Seussical Christmas trees, cans of Who Hash, step ladders, roast beasts, sewing machines, and countless other Whoville paraphernalia, made with scarcely a straight line or right angle in sight. Oh, and real snow (or a pretty close approximation) falls upon audience heads.

Completing the Grinch design is the excellent work of lighting designer Pat Collins and sound designer Paul Peterson.

It wouldn’t be Christmas without the Grinch, and it wouldn’t be an Old Globe Christmas without How The Grinch Stole Christmas. This dozenth-year production is guaranteed to make the heart of any real-life Grinch grow three sizes ... and then some!

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through December 27. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7:00, Saturdays at 11:00, 2:00, and 8:00, Sundays at 11:00, 2:00, and 5:00. No performances on December 10 or 25. Additional performances on Dec. 12 and 19 at 5:00. Reservations: 619 234-5623/ www.oldglobe.org

—Steven Stanley
December 6, 2009

Photos: Craig Schwartz
The holiday season is upon us, and at the Old Globe Theatre, that means the arrival of what is now a well-established San Diego tradition.

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" is at the Old Globe for its 12th season, playing through Dec. 27.

If the reaction of the opening night crowd is any indication, audiences are still in love with the furry green misanthrope, even if he does start out as a heel, or — as one of several songs used in the play from the beloved '60s holiday cartoon special — a bad banana with a greasy black peel.

There's something about the rounded white huts where the Whos live and the crosshatched shading patterns that permeate the set — a signature of Dr. Seuss' style — that feel instantly familiar and, well, Christmassy.

The show, however, has more to offer than merely a repeat of an annual tradition, even for those who has seen the production in past years.

The show remains relevant, the themes of commercialism and how the residents of Who-ville find the spirit of Christmas even after their gifts are stolen are perhaps even more resonant during these tough economic times.

For those unfamiliar with the story, a quick recap: The Grinch lives alone in a cave up in Mt. Crumpet. He hates all things Christmas and, by extension, the Whos, his neighbors down in the valley who go all crazy over the holiday, singing "Fah Who Doraze," buying each other gifts and eating roast beast.

Fed up with their celebration, he hatches a plan to stop Christmas.

Jeff Skowron — whose credits include Broadway productions of "The Grinch" (as a Who-ville resident) as well as "The Lion King," and "Beauty and the Beast" — infuses the Grinch with a sarcastic edge that's extremely fun to watch, making the character more of a smart-alecky outsider than a full-out meanie.

As always, the production gives the Grinch a lot of room to interact with the cast, and his quick put downs and call outs are a highlight of the production.

Those who have seen the play before will notice that both of the actors who play Max, the Grinch's adopted stray, are reprising roles they previously held.

Martin Van Treuren returns for his third year as Old Max, the story's narrator, and he's perfect in the role as he reminisces about his past with both whimsy and dismay.

Logan Lipton returns as Young Max and delivers a nice performance, especially during the scenes that highlight physical comedy.

The rest of the cast combines professional actors and young local performers, who are split into two casts.

Shea Stairs Siben of San Marcos and Anna Bahen of Carmel Mountain share the role of Cindy-Lou Who, the littlest of the Whos who teaches the Grinch what it's like to be part of a larger community.

Shianne Evans, a resident of 4S Ranch, has a part in the Little Who Ensemble.

The play is directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein. The scene design is by John Lee Beatty and costumes by Robert Morgan.

Tickets prices for the show range from $39-$79 for adults and $20-59 for children ages 3-17. For tickets, go to http://www.TheOldGlobe.org or call 619-23-GLOBE.
As 7:00pm drew near, flocks of wide-eyed youngsters and their eager parents headed to the doors of the Old Globe Theatre to see and experience the 12th presentation of *HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!* ... as San Diego’s own season of holiday shows open their theatre doors all around the city and county.

Whether in 2008 or today 2009, GRINCH is a lot of fun!
Originally conceived and directed by Jack O’Brien and choreographed by John Deluca, this 12th season production of GRINCH has been even further enhanced by current Director Benjamin Endsley Klein, re-staged choreography by James Vasquez, with additional choreo by Bob Richard ... all, under the Musical Direction of John Samariah. This makes for a dynamite creative team to design, shape, and bring to life on stage this fable of GRINCH, his dog MAD, and the whole family of WHOs. With on-going sponsorship of Audrey S. Geisel, GRINCH benefits big-time from the elaborate Scenic Stage Designs of John Lee Beatty, equaled by the colorful, over-the-top costumes of Robert Morgan, and, lit and mic’d to perfection by Pat Collins and Paul Peterson – respectively.

The GRINCH family of actors, singers and dancers who trip-the-light-fantastic in their over-sized shoes, pot-bellied, big-tush-costumes, with outrageous hairdos and make-up... grows larger each year, as new talents take on the Disney-like roles. This season, in place of Kevin Bailey (committed to a show in Los Angeles), a delightful replacement as ‘Grinch’ has been found in Jeff Skowron... who has the spunky character, fluid moves and all-important facial expressions down to perfection! Backed-up by his side-kick pooch ‘Max’ (both in young Logan Lipton and older Martin Van Treuren)... their physical antics abound... especially, with Logan Lipton ‘slippin’... slidin’... and woofin’... all over the stage. Together, Logan and Martin wail-out THIS TIME OF YEAR, and roundly scold-out ‘Grinch’ in YOU’RE A MEAN ONE MR. GRINCH,
with the audience joining the sing-along...with, of course, signs with lyrics).

Logan Lipton as 'himself' ... as Grinch's YOUNG MAX

The townspeople WHOs (those who love Christmas) reflect their celebration in WHO LIKES CHRISTMAS, IT’S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS and several reprises of the show’s title song WELCOME CHRISTMAS. The quartet of elder WHOs – Steve Gunderson (PAPA), Anne Fraser Thomas (MAMA), Kurt Norby (GRANDPA) and Eileen Bowman (GRANDMA) sing raucously throughout the tale, and have their own moment of ‘joy’ to themselves in NOW’S THE TIME! The real showstopper comes with Jeff Skowron’s ‘Grinch’ cutting-loose with ONE OF A KIND .... Jeff is terrific, and matches the needs of the role perfectly...and his devilish deeds. With WHO’s names like ‘Cindy-Lou’, ‘Annie Who’, ‘Danny Who’, and....’Boo Who’ ... how can you go wrong with these little munchkins (?)....then, with the sparkling two-steps-choreo of all the WHOs in ... IT’S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS ....GRINCH is super fun to watch!

Jeff Skowron (as himself) ... as GRINCH ... "I have an awful idea"
(As noted) Dr. Seuss’ HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! was a very special challenge to the Props Department, according to Properties Director Neil Holmes. It’s the Props Department that supplies everything on stage, that’s not nailed down...all the unique items that create WHO-ville. But where do you go, to find a can of WHO-hash? “Of all the shows I’ve worked on in 23 years at the Globe, the GRINCH took the most research and development to create the props. It’s the most stylized production. We had to build almost everything from scratch, to achieve a look that’s faithful to Dr. Seuss’ style. Everything is just a little bit out of the ordinary, with almost no straight lines or right angles”.

Several Old Globe veterans of GRINCH can be found in this cast with Steve Gunderson (1999, '00, 03, 07, 08 & 09), Amy Biedel ((07, 08 & 09), Logan Lipton (08 & 09), Anise Ritchie (07, 08 & 09), Kayla Solsbak (07, 08 & 09), Martin Van Treuren (07, 08 & 09), the show’s Dance Captain James Vasquez (1903-09), and Eileen Bowman – the only original cast member of GRINCH, now in her 12th year.... I guess, she really knows the show! Playing through Dec 27th, HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! is definitely a 'winner', and tickets are still available at ...

Old Globe Box Office (619) 23-GLOBE, or on line at www.theoldglobe.org.
Killing a Dream and Finding a Heart

BY JEAN LOWERISON
Published Thursday, 03-Dec-2009 in issue 1145

‘Bonnie & Clyde’

They were just kids, really, coming of age in small-town Texas during the Depression, looking for escape, excitement and fame.

Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow met in Dallas, fell in love instantly and soon found what they were looking for, becoming headline fodder by robbing banks, grocery stores and gas stations. Clyde’s brother Buck (Claybourne Elder) and his horrified wife Blanche (Melissa van der Schyff) also got involved.

For a while, the public found them romantic heroes, Robin Hoods stealing from the banks that had screwed over the people in those desperate economic times. But they lost their cachet when the killing started, and a dozen deaths later, in 1934, their string of crimes ended in a hail of police bullets when they were 23 and 25 years old.

La Jolla Playhouse presents the world premiere of Broadway hopeful Bonnie & Clyde through Sunday, Dec. 20, at the Mandell Weiss Theatre. Jeff Calhoun directs and handles the musical staging.

Book author Ivan Manchell doesn’t rehash the 1967 film’s romanticized view of these young desperadoes, but rather chooses to consider the psychology of the pair and the effects of their actions on those close to them, relying on three memoirs: those by Bonnie’s widowed mother Emma, Blanche and Clyde’s younger sister Marie.

A book by cop Ted Hinton (Chris Peluso) led Mandell to posit unrequited love between himself and former classmate Bonnie — without verification, but based on a line that made it sound likely.

In addition to boredom and the desire for notoriety, Clyde had a goal of revenge on the Texas prison system, said to have been formulated at a young age when he was incarcerated for petty crimes and endured repeated rape by his cellmate (finally fracturing the offender’s skull with a pipe).

But it’s the families who really suffer here. Emma (the redoubtable Mare Winningham) barely recognizes her daughter, the A student who wrote poetry, asking in a plaintive song, “When did the devil take my girl away?” Clyde’s father Henry sorrowfully tells the cops he understands their need to kill Clyde, but that he can’t help them do it. The religious Blanche, after several desperate attempts to keep Buck from involvement in his brother’s exploits, eventually goes along — and pays the price.

Interestingly enough, family was important enough that their crime spree was geographically circular, so Bonnie could come back to visit her mother — and that’s how the cops found them.

Composer Frank Wildhorn (Jekyll and Hyde, The Scarlet Pimpernel) and lyricist Don Black (a Tony winner for Sunset Boulevard) tell the story with ragtime, gospel, blues and folk music sounds, including some particularly lovely duet, trio and quartet writing.

Tobin Ost’s set design is minimalist but functional and appropriate to the dramatic situation: wooden slats that can be raised or lowered to suggest spaciousness or its opposite, suggestions of bars for the prison scenes, a desk for an office, all wonderfully lit for dramatic effect by Michael Gilliam.

Vocally, the men fare better than the women. All the men (and especially Peluso) have rich, round voices that are a pleasure to hear. Osnes and van der Schyff have fine voices as well, but their piercing upper registers are more difficult to listen to.

Bonnie & Clyde needs a few tweaks before it goes on. It’s too long, and the easiest fix would be to eliminate the reprises. “The Long Arm of the Law” and “The World Will Remember Us” are good songs but don’t need two reprises each; “God’s Arms Are Always Open” probably could be dropped entirely without losing anything important. But the necessary elements for a winner are in place.

Bonnie & Clyde plays through Sunday, Dec. 20, at La Jolla Playhouse’s Mandell Weiss Theatre. Shows Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday through Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. For tickets, call 858-550-1010 or visit www.lajollaplayhouse.org.

‘Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas’

That mossy green ol’ Grinch (Jeff Skowron) is back in town, glowering at the Whos down in Whoville getting ready for the Christmas holidays. Soon he will tie antlers on his poor dog Max (Logan Lipton) and force him to help in the Grinch’s nefarious plan to keep Christmas from coming.

The homegrown annual classic Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas is in its 12th incarnation at the Old Globe Theatre through Sunday, Dec. 27. Benjamin Endsley Klein directs a particularly experienced
Shea Starrs Siben as Cindy-Lou Who and Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in ‘Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas,’ at The Old Globe through Sunday, Dec. 27.

PHOTO BY CRAIG SCHWARTZ

Shea Starrs Siben as Cindy-Lou Who and Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in ‘Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas,’ at The Old Globe through Sunday, Dec. 27.

PHOTO BY CRAIG SCHWARTZ

cast, including 14 returnees.

One is Martin Van Treuren as Old Max, who tells the story in flashback, describing that wonderful, awful year when his owner, the mean greenie, tried and failed to steal Christmas.

But oh, my, it’s a wonderful ride, helped immeasurably by this year’s new Grinch (Jeff Skowron, who understudied the role on Broadway) and little Cindy-Lou Who, a double-cast role played by Anna Bahen the night I saw it.

Skowron skulks around the stage like a big hairy Scrooge, fuming at the whole idea of giving and sharing and joy – until that fateful night when he’s stolen all the gifts and even the Christmas tree from Whoville. Before he and Max can escape, Cindy-Lou comes downstairs asking him to be “Santa For a Day,” in a heart-melting song with some tricky interval jumps that nine-year-old Bahen nails.

Even a Grinch couldn’t resist that, and his heart which was “two sizes too small” grows three sizes in a few minutes.

Mel Marvin’s charming songs (especially the Grinch’s vaudeville-inspired “One Of a Kind”) keep toes tapping and occasionally eyes brimming; the orchestra is better than ever, and everybody leaves smiling and humming.

What more can you ask?

*Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas* plays through Sunday, Dec. 27, at the Old Globe Theatre. Shows Tuesday through Sunday at 7 p.m.; weekends variable, generally at 11 a.m., 2:30 and 7 p.m. For tickets, call 619-23-GLOBE or visit [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org).

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You have to hand it to the Old Globe Theatre. As every holiday season the theater scene is flooded with endless productions of "A Christmas Carol" and "The Nutcracker," the Globe created its own holiday show by adapting the popular children's book and animated TV special "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" to the stage.

Every year, the show varies some and sometimes that variance is good, sometimes not. But that doesn't change the fact that in its 12th year, "The Grinch" has become a treasured holiday tradition for many San Diego families. While the story is the same, but the current production can't be said to be any better than the half-hour ani-

mated version. By meticulously orchestrating the action for 45 minutes (that's no interruption), there's a lot of film between the familiar scenes of the Grinch and his dog Max planning to steal Christmas from the ever-

cheerful Whos. Like "A Christmas Carol," it is a story of redemption and the lifting of oppressive animosity.

The show follows the few places, mostly the main character Sally's house and the Whos' cemetery, to such effects as those from "Who Lives Christmas?" "I Hate Christmas," and "One of a Kind" are fairly forget-
table. The songs about conservation, "It's the Thing That Counts," aren't out of place with the Whos we have grown to love over generations of TV-watching. The only songs that really resonate are "You and Me," "Who Loves You, Mr. Grinch?" in the latter, the audience gets to sing along, which is from the animated version.

But much of the production does work. The live factor can't be emphasized enough everyone enjoys seeing the Grinch climb up and possibly interacting with the live being of Max as an old dog reminiscent of the beloved character, but with the Grinch, it's delightful. And the live interaction between Cindy-loose Who and the Grinch, as well as the Grinch and Max, are appropriate for the grown-ups, while the humor of the Grinch himself will make younger family homes.

The redすこと in this production is only 3 years old. Shes very funny (alternating with Anne Bare) is simply wonderful as Cindy-loose Who. She sings with the voice of someone four times her age and gives the character the right balance between naivety and humor (her older sister Inky also played the role). In his first turn as the Grinch, Broadway veteran Jeff Sharewood leaves a little further toward the comic side of the character, but rememberers to give him a slight edge. His Grinch doesn't want, but needs, to keep the Who's Holiday. Michael Van Treuren's Old Max is a puppy full of vigor and ren-
cency. Both are excellent in the roles. In fact, the quality of the entire ensemble is impressive, especially members of Cindy-

loose's family.

John A. Hurst's set brings the Dr. Seuss book (not the animated show) to life, down to the yellow-like candy colors. Old Max's mates the character upper and lower, but it's a complement.

While "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" isn't perfect, it's something different and enjoyable for the whole family. And don't miss what it makes in a perfect holiday tradition."
You have to hand it to the Old Globe Theatre. As every holiday season the theater scene is flooded with endless productions of “A Christmas Carol” and “The Nutcracker,” the Globe created its own holiday show by adapting the popular children’s book and animated TV special “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” to the stage.

Every year, the show varies some and sometimes that variance is good, sometimes not. But that doesn’t change the fact that in its 12th year, “The Grinch” has become a treasured holiday tradition for many San Diego families.

Not to be a Scrooge about it, but the current production can’t be said to be any better than the half-hour animated version. By stretching out the action past 60 minutes (there’s no intermission), there’s a lot of filler between the familiar scenes of the Grinch and his dog Max planning to steal Christmas from the ever-cheerful Whos. Like “A Christmas Carol,” it is a story of redemption and the lifting of oppressive isolation.

The show falters in a few places, most notably in the score by Timothy Mason and Mel Marvin. Songs such as “Who Likes Christmas?,” “I Hate Christmas” and “One of a Kind” are fairly forgettable. The song about commercialism, “It’s the Thought That Counts,” seems out of place with the Whos we have grown to love over generations of TV-watching. The only songs that really resonate are “Welcome Christmas (Fah Who Doraze)” and “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch” (in the latter, the audience gets to sing along), which are from the animated version.

But much of the production does work. The live factor can’t be emphasized enough — everyone enjoys seeing the Grinch close up and possibly interacting with him. The framing of Max as an old dog reminiscing of that fateful Christmas, his first with the Grinch, is delightful. And the sweet relationship between Cindy-Lou Who and the Grinch can’t fail to bring a few tears to the grown up eyes while the humor of the Grinch himself will tickle younger funny bones.

The real standout in this production is only 5 years old. Shea Starrs Siben (alternating with Anna Bahen) is simply wonderful as Cindy-Lou Who. She sings with the voice of someone four times her age and gives the character the right balance between pathos and humor (her older sister Skylar once also played the role).

In his first turn as the Grinch, Broadway veteran Jeff Skowron leans a little further toward the comic side of the character, but remembers to give him a slight edge. His Grinch doesn’t scare, but doesn’t appear tame either.

Martin Van Treuren’s Old Max is a comfortable old chair of a character, while Logan Lipton’s Young Max is a puppy full of vigor and innocence. Both are excellent in the roles. In fact, the quality of the entire ensemble is impressive, especially members of Cindy-Lou’s family.

John Lee Beatty’s set brings the Dr. Seuss book (not the animated show) to life, down to the pillow-like candy canes. Robert Morgan’s costumes make the characters appear anything but human – yes, that’s a compliment.

While “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” isn’t perfect, it’s something different and enjoyable for the whole family. And that’s what makes it a perfect holiday tradition.
Again ‘Grinch’ charms young and old

By CHARLENE BALDRIEDE | VILLAGE NEWS

The Old Globe opened its 12th annual “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” Nov. 27. The annual feast for children of all ages continues through Dec. 27 at the landmark Balboa Park Theatre.

Each year, the critic attends kicking and screaming, “Oh, no! Not again!” Each year she experiences what can only be described as Grinch nostalgia. Having watched the eyes of little children fill with wonder, she comes away inspired and resolved to be less jaded in the New Year.

John Lee Beatty’s Who-Ville set is unchanged. Each costume created by Globe associate artist Robert Morgan remains essentially the same, setting up memories of performances past, bygone portrayals of Young Max, Old Max and the furry green Grinch himself. Only Grandma Who (silvery soprano Eileen Bowman) is still played by the woman who created the role in 1998.

The most amazing phenomenon and legacy is the stream of Cindy-Lou Whos who have graced the production over the years. Mel Marvin’s music is not simple and has a big range for a youngster, who must hold her own in the show’s hit song “Santa for a Day.” This year’s Cindy-Lou, 5-year-old Shea Starrs Siben, stole every opening night. Shea first saw “Grinch” at 3, when her elder sister Skylar played Cindy-Lou. Shea now plays Cindy-Lou, sharing the role with 9-year-old Anna Bahen, who plays alternate performances. All the Who children are double cast.

Cindy-Lou Who melts the heart of the Grinch in the Old Globe’s “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”
PHOTO BY CRAIG SCHWARTZ

Many readers know the story written by Dr. Seuss, Theodor “Ted” Geisel, who lived in La Jolla. After his death, Geisel’s widow, Audrey, gave the children of San Diego the gift of this “Grinch.” The show, which has since proliferated, premiered in its present form at the Globe in 1998, under the child-like direction of then artistic director Jack O’Brien.

Old Max (the Grinch’s dog), who wanted to see the place once more, returns to Who-Ville, and as he tells the tale encounters his youthful self as well as all the citizens of Who-Ville, from whom the Grinch (“You’re One of a Kind”) determines to steal Christmas. Having taken all the toys, trees and roast beasts, the Grinch, whose heart has already been touched by Cindy-Lou, hears the Whos celebrating anyway. He realizes that Christmas is about something more than its accompaniments.

The current production, directed for the third year by Benjamin Endsley Klein, is excellent. Music director John Samorian conducts the large company, and his eight-piece Who-Chestra lends excellent support, especially to the youngest singer/performers, who find their pitches and are well-heard, thanks to Paul Peterson’s excellent sound design. Favorite musical moments are “Who Likes Christmas,” “You’re A Mean One, Mr. Grinch” and the elder Whos’ quartet “This Time of Year.” It’s guaranteed that one goes home singing “Santa for a Day.”

In his Old Globe debut as the Grinch, Broadway veteran Jeff Skowron is a keeper, pitch perfect, vocally interesting and not too scary. Martin Van Treuren, returning as Old Max, is the absolute best, dramatically and vocally, and Logan Lipton’s second outing as Young Max is a joy.

The critic was accompanied by a friend three years older than she. It was her first experience of the show, and she was absolutely captivated. It’s fun for the experienced “Grinch”-goer to see wonder reflected in the eyes of newbies, whether youthful or aged.

“Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas” continues through Dec. 27, with performances scheduled at times that accommodate families with small children and grownups as well. See the detailed schedule at www.theoldglobe.org or call (619) 23-GLOBE.
FEATURES
It takes a village
to create a ‘Grinch’

By James Hebert
THEATER CRITIC

It’s showtime at the Old Globe, but the action backstage sounds more like a dramatic reading of a kid’s picture book than like roll call for a big-time musical: “Boots!? Scallop? Lady Bug!? Annette Yé, assistant stage manager for the theater’s 2009 production of “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” is taking a final tally of child actors as the 10:30 a.m. curtain nears for a preview performance. Then, through her headset, she gives the good word to stage manager Lella Knox: “We have places.”

And oh, the places Yé will go—okay, that’s a different Seuss...


A Whoville child makes her entrance at Tuesday’s first performance of the Old Globe’s “The Grinch.”

Backstage at “The Grinch,” electrician Tonnie Ficken (center) and spot operators Steve Schmitz and Kristen Flores trouble-shoot.

The decorations in the children’s dressing room at the Old Globe reflect the spirit of the season and the play, a former member of the Broadway cast, plays Old Man Max.

Putting on the dog — or, anyway, the dog costume — presents its own kind of acting challenge, Lipton says.

“You’re completely immersed in it,” he says. “You really have to raise the level of your performance. No one wants a puppy who acts like you or me.”

What Lipton appreciates most about the show is that the kids
who come in the cast "infuse a show like this, which is all about the holiday spirit and redemption, with (those qualities). They have that innocence in them. It's not a put-on. It's just there. That's nice to see."

One of those young actors is Alison Grace Norwood, who at 13 is already a veteran of the show. This year, she's playing Annie. Who is in the cast's Red Group (the young performers are split into alternating ensembles).

Her clip-on hair curls make Alison look as though she might have just stepped out of a cartoon, but she says her favorite part of the costume is the curly-toed footwear.

"We all want the Who shoes — to wear them out in public," she says.

The Red Group's plum part, that of Cindy Lou Who, is played this year by Shea Starr Sibert. The role runs in the family. Her sister, Skyler, played it for three years.

Just 6 years old, Shea says she has been singing since around age 3. (In other words, half her life.) When it's time for her big solo on the song "Santas for a Day," she delivers with impressive high notes and a whole lot of feeling. Even the Mean One melts a little.

For her part, the Grinch is not above playing to the crowd. When the song began, his insidious wisecrack — "Oh, no, it's a ballad!" — seemed to fly over the heads of the juvenile audience. But at the show's climax, when the Grinch is struggling mightily to utter the word "Christmas," the delighted laughs goad Skovron into throwing in some extra ad libs.

Watching from backstage, Trevor Hay, a Globe property master, says to Vit with a smile: "We could be here a while."

Being the Grinch has its privileges.  

James Hebert (619) 293-2040  
jim.hebert@uniontrib.com
It takes a village to create a ‘Grinch’

By James Hebert

Sunday, November 29, 2009 at midnight

Peggy Peattie / Union-Tribune

The Grinch, aka Jeff Skowron, sees sleeping Who children and creeps over to steal their candy canes as he makes off with Christmas from Whoville during the first presentation of the Old Globe Theater’s newest production of ‘Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!’
A Whoville child makes her entrance at Tuesday’s first performance of the Old Globe’s “The Grinch.”

Backstage at “The Grinch,” electrician Tonnie Ficken (center) and spot operators Steve Schmitz and Kristen Flores trouble-shoot.

The decorations in the children’s dressing room at the Old Globe reflect the spirit of the season and the play.

DETAILS

“Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!”
The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

When: Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; most Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. and 2 and 5 p.m.; various additional performances (consult theater for full schedule); through Dec. 27

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: $39-$79 adults, $20-$59 children

Phone: (619) 234-5623 Online: TheOldGlobe.org

Online

For more of Peggy Peattie’s photos from the “Grinch,” visit uniontrib.com/grinch2009.

It’s showtime at the Old Globe, but the action backstage sounds more like a dramatic reading of a kids’ picture book than like roll call for a big-time musical:

“Bootsie? Scallop? Lady Bug?” Annette Yé, assistant stage manager for the theater’s 2009 production of “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!,” is taking a final tally of child actors as the 10:30 a.m. curtain nears for a preview performance.

Then, through her headset, she gives the good word to stage manager Leila Knox: “We have places.”

And oh, the places Yé will go (yes, that’s a different Seuss book, but stay with us) over the course of this hourlong performance: Behind curtains, inside set pieces, up prop stairs — everywhere there are cues to be given, actors to be wrangled, trouble to be shot.

In its 12th season at the Globe, the “Grinch” — based on the Seuss classic about the green-haired ingrate who yearns to put a stop to Christmas — is a zippy little carnival of whimsical costumes, sweet songs and adorable performers.

As seen from behind the curtain, though, it’s also a miniature city of scurrying stagehands and towering set pieces with names like Grinch Cave and Who Hill. And sometimes, the fur does fly. (Or at least float. The Grinch and his trusty dog Max tend to shed.)

The show originally was conceived and directed in 1998 by the Globe’s then-artistic director, Jack O’Brien; its San Diego success spawned a Broadway production in 2006. Two seasons ago, Benjamin Endsley Klein took over as director and retooled the piece. This year, it also stars a new Grinch: Jeff Skowron, who was a member of the Broadway ensemble and understudied the title role.
This may be Klein’s show, but it’s Yé, Knox, production assistant Jess Slocum and the rest of the backstage team who keep the thing running, performance after performance.

“I’m back here just to make sure everything’s moving at the right time, that everything is safe, that the kids are in the right place,” says Yé. “I also have cues. I’ll call some stuff that Leila can’t see from where she is (in the booth). I run the deck and she calls the show. And Jess is also here for backup.”

Once the curtain rises, things move quickly, and this crew works without a net. Luckily, the show’s orchestra doesn’t.

On this late-November weekday, as the house fills up with youngsters for a school-day performance, word circulates backstage that a chaperon has taken a plunge into the orchestra pit. Fortunately, a net covering the space (and intended mostly to fend off stray props and the like) has apparently prevented disaster.

The incident is a first, but the unexpected happens every day here. Today, the mishaps will be minor; the Grinch’s hat gets stuck in a chimney, an actor nearly topples from a prop bed.

Even when at its smoothest, though, the show can be demanding. In his dressing room, 45 minutes before showtime, Skowron is busy applying the dense and detailed Grinch makeup, and shortly will don that famous (and thick) green fur. A busy New York-based actor, Skowron was once a cast member of Broadway’s “The Lion King.”

“So, as far as costumes and makeup and sweatiness, that prepared me for this,” he says.

A few rooms over, veteran local actor Steve Gunderson — who has acted in seven of the 12 “Grinch” productions at the Globe — is readying for his role as Papa Who, as he chats with dance captain and “swing” actor James Vasquez (also known as a director at local theaters such as Cygnet and Diversionary).

Vasquez, in his seventh straight year with the show, knows every character’s part by heart — so much so that when “Grinch” season rolls around, he does a one-man run-through in his living room to get ready. (A swing has to be prepared to play a huge variety of roles.)

Twenty minutes before curtain, Logan Lipton — another New York actor — is almost ready to go on as Young Max, the Grinch’s cowed canine companion. (Martin Van Treuren, a former member of the Broadway cast, plays Old Max.)

Putting on the dog — or, anyway, the dog costume — presents its own kind of acting challenge, Lipton says.

“You’re completely immersed in it,” he says. “You really have to raise the level of your performance to the costume. No one wants a puppy who acts like you or me.”
What Lipton appreciates most about the show is that the kids who come in the cast “infuse a show like this, which is all about the holiday spirit and redemption, with (those qualities). They have that innocence in them. It’s not a put-on. It’s just there. That’s nice to see.”

One of those young actors is Alison Grace Norwood, who at 13 is already a veteran of the show. This year, she’s playing Annie Who in the cast’s Red Group (the young performers are split into alternating ensembles).

Her clip-on hair curls make Alison look as though she might have just stepped out of a cartoon, but she says her favorite part of the costume is the curly-toed footwear.

“We all want the Who shoes — to wear them out in public,” she says.

The Red Group’s plum part, that of Cindy Lou Who, is played this year by Shea Starrs Siben. The role runs in the family: Her sister, Skylar, played it for three years.

Just 6 years old, Shea says she has been singing since around age 3. (In other words, half her life.) When it’s time for her big solo on the song “Santa for a Day,” she delivers with impressive high notes and a whole lot of feeling. Even the Mean One melts a little.

For his part, the Grinch is not above playing to the crowd. When the song began, his insider-y wisecrack — “Oh no, it’s a ballad!” — seemed to fly over the heads of this juvenile audience.

But at the show’s climax, when the Grinch is struggling mightily to utter the word “Christmas,” the delighted laughs goad Skowron into throwing in some extra ad-libs.

Watching from backstage, Trevor Hay, a Globe property master, says to Yé with a smile: “We could be here a while.”

Being the Grinch has its privileges.

James Hebert: (619) 293-2040; jim.hebert@uniontrib.com
THEATER

New ‘Grinch’ helms Globe’s 12th staging

By PAM KRAGEN

This year, a new actor steps into the long, pointy red shoes of the Grinch for the Old Globe’s “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” But while Jeff Skowron will be new to San Diego audiences, he’s anything but new to the Grinch.

Skowron has spent the past three holiday seasons in other productions of the Timothys Mason/Mel Marvin musical (in New York, Boston and Baltimore) and he’s excited to take on the musical’s title role in the city where it was born 12 years ago.

Raised in Johnston, Penn., Skowron started acting professionally when he was 13. After earning an acting degree from Penn State, he moved to New York to focus on straight theater, but when he landed a role in the off-Broadway production of “Zombie Prom,” it brought him to the attention of musical casting agents, and he’s done mostly musicals ever since. His Broadway credits include playing Ed the hyn in “The Lion King,” Le Mou in “Beauty and the Beast” and Stanley in “High Society.”

In 2006, he became a citizen of Whoville in the first

“DR. SEUSS’ HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS”

WHEN: Opens Friday and runs through Dec. 27; showtimes vary, but generally 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; 11:30 a.m. and 2 and 5 p.m. Sundays
WHERE: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego
TICKETS: $39-$59 adults; $20-$39 children ages 3 to 17
INFO: 619-234-5623
www.oldglobe.org

Broadway production of “The Grinch.” In 2007 and 2008, he understood the role of the Grinch (one of the actors he understood was Patrick Page, who coincidentally will be at the Globe next month as well, performing a limited run of the musical “1 Do! I Do!” with his wife, Paige Davis).

During both years, though, Skowron got to go on as the Grinch only once, so he’s eager to finally put all that he’s learned over the years into the part of the mountain-dwelling, green-skinned grouch who tries to snatch the audience.

“There’s so much dialogue and music in the ‘Grinch,’ that it would be intimidating to take it all on at once, but all the words and music have sunk into me so I can be free to create, which is really nice for me. Before, I was understudying and had to try to create what the other guy did. Now I can do my own thing, and I’m so grateful to the director (Ben Klein) who gives me a lot of freedom and also can help shape my goofing around.”

One of the biggest challenges actors face in a show like the “Grinch” are the big, heavy costumes, but Skowron said the Grinch costume (a nylon body stocking covered in dyed green fur, and self-applied green and yellow makeup) is leather-light compared with his costumes in “Lion King” and “Beauty and the Beast.”

“In those shows, I had so many layers and pounds of costume on me, and I had to do a lot of running around and tumbling, so that’s already in me,” he said. “But we did a ‘Grinch’ run-through without costumes the other day, and I was dripping with sweat. It’s a really highly physical show. I’m learning to pace myself vocally, too. The Grinch does a lot of yelling, shouting and growling, and if I try to do that for the whole show, I’ll lose my voice.”

Having performed in the show so many times, Skowron said the best part of the “Grinch” is watching how children respond.

“They’re really into it,” he said. “They get excited and yell things out at the Grinch. They’re right in that line between being scared of the Grinch and laughing at him, and they get so excited.”

When he’s not performing, Skowron is a writer and actor for a Web production company called Dinosaur Diorama that produced sitcoms exclusively for the Web. He said he planned to move to Los Angeles in January after finishing the “Grinch” run in San Diego, but instead he’ll be heading back to New York for a prime role in April’s Broadway premiere of the London-born smash “Enron.”

“The day I landed in San Diego, I got a call from my agent that I’d booked ‘Enron.’ I was so excited about this. From the moment I read the script I knew I wanted to do in it,” he said. “It’s very high profile, and I think it will be a huge hit.”

See ‘Grinch,’ Page 21

‘Grinch’
Continued from Page 20

Jeff Skowron costumed as the Grinch in the Old Globe’s “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas” musical. Courtesy photo

Christmas spirit away from the villagers below:

Skowron, who’s in his mid-30s, is the youngest actor to play the Grinch in San Diego. Having played foolish, highly physical characters in “Lion King” and “Beauty and the Beast,” he said he thinks his interpretation of the Grinch will be “goofier” than most.

“I hesitate to compare myself to other actors who’ve played the Grinch, but maybe I’m a little goofier and maybe more on the silly side,” said Skowron, who’s single and lives on Manhattan’s Upper West Side.

Because he’s been in the show for the past three years, he said he knows the script and score so well he can focus entirely on his performance and his interaction with the audience.
Globe has a new Grinch for 12th annual production

By PAM KRAGEN - pkragen@nctimes.com | Posted: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 10:25 am | No Comments Posted

Craig Schwartz Jeff Skowron plays the Grinch in the Old Globe's 12th annual production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." (Courtesy photo)
This year, a new actor steps into the long, pointy red shoes of the Grinch for the Old Globe's "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." But while Jeff Skowron will be new to San Diego audiences, he's anything but new to the Grinch.

Skowron has spent the past three holiday seasons in other productions of the Timothy Mason/Mel Marvin musical (in New York, Boston and Baltimore) and he's excited to take on the musical's title role in the city where it was born 12 years ago.

Raised in Johnston, Penn., Skowron started acting professionally when he was 13. After earning an acting degree from Penn State, he moved to New York to focus on straight theater, but when he landed a role in the off-Broadway production of "Zombie Prom," it brought him to the attention of musical casting agents, and he's done mostly musicals ever since. His Broadway credits include playing Ed the hyena in "The Lion King," Lefou in "Beauty and the Beast" and Stanley in "High Society."

In 2006, he became a citizen of Whoville in the first Broadway production of "The Grinch." In 2007 and 2008, he understudied the role of the Grinch (one of the actors he understudied was Patrick Page, who coincidentally will be at the Globe next month as well, performing a limited run of the musical "I Do! I Do!" with his wife, Paige Davis).

During both years, though, Skowron got to go on as the Grinch only once, so he's eager to finally put all that he's learned over the years into the part of the mountain-dwelling, green-skinned grouch who tries to snatch the Christmas spirit away from the villagers below.

Skowron, who's in his mid-30s, is the youngest actor to play the Grinch in San Diego. Having played foolish, highly physical characters in "Lion King" and "Beauty and the Beast," he said he thinks his interpretation of the Grinch will be "goofier" than most.

"I hesitate to compare myself to other actors who've played the Grinch, but maybe I'm a little goofier and maybe more on the slimy side," said Skowron, who's single and lives on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

Because he's been in the show for the past three years, he said he knows the script and score so well he can focus entirely on his performance and his interaction with the audience.

"There's so much dialogue and music in the 'Grinch,' that it would be intimidating to take it all on at once, but all the words and music have sunk into me so I can be free to create, which is really nice for me. Before, I was understudying and had to try to re-create what the other guy did. Now I can do my own thing, and I'm so grateful to the director (Ben Klein) who gives me a lot of freedom and also can help shape my goofing around."
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"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

When: Opens Friday and runs through Dec. 27; showtimes vary, but generally 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; 11 a.m., 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. Sundays

Where: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego

Tickets: $39-$79, adults; $20-$59, children ages 3 to 17

Info: 619-234-5623

Web: www.theoldglobe.org

Posted in Theatre on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 10:25 am Updated: 12:04 pm. | Tags: Entertainment Preview, Nct, Theater

Globe has a new Grinch for 12th annual production

http://www.nctimes.com/entertainment/arts-and-theatre/theatre/article_92...
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Find Out ‘How The Grinch Stole Christmas!’

Posted by Jonathan Young on Saturday, November 21, 2009 · Leave a Comment

The Old Globe Theatre welcomes the Whos from Whoville as they open their classic Christmas show, Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The annual holiday musical, now in its 12th year, runs in the Old Globe Theatre Nov. 21 – Dec. 27.

Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. The family favorite features the songs “This Time of Year,” “It’s the Thought that Counts” and “Fah Who Doraze,” the delightful carol from the popular animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Celebrate the holidays as the Old Globe Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Whoville, right down to the last can of Who-hash.

Jeff Skowron is no stranger to Grinch, having performed in both the 2007 and 2008 Broadway productions as a citizen of Whoville. He joins the original San Diego cast this year as the Grinch. His Broadway credits also include The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, High Society and the workshop of The Boy From Oz (“Chris Bell” opposite Hugh Jackman).

The original production of Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! was conceived and directed by Jack O’Brien with original choreography by John DeLuca. This season’s production features Musical Direction by Ron Colvard, Additional Choreography by Bob Richard and Choreography Restaged by James Vasquez.

Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Presented by the Old Globe Theatre
Nov. 21 – Dec. 27. (Previews Nov. 21 – 26, with opening night Nov. 27)
Tickets: $39-$79 for adults, $20-$59 for children (3-17 years).

1363 Old Globe Way (in Balboa Park)
Box Office: (619) 23-GLOBE
Online: www.TheOldGlobe.org

- **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony:** The fourth annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is Nov. 22, 6 p.m. on the Globe’s Copley Plaza. Designed by Grinch scenic designer John Lee Beatty, the unique tree will be located 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 holiday snowfall on the Globe Plaza. Tickets to this free event are limited but may be obtained by subscribers and are included with the tickets to the Nov. 20 performance at 4:30.

**Share and Enjoy:**

Filed under Theater · Tagged with Balboa Park, Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, Old Globe Theatre

Speak Your Mind
Dr. Seuss' 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' at the Old Globe Theatre

December 9, 12:33 PM  San Diego Pop Culture Examiner  Veronica Farr

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas has officially arrived in San Diego for the holidays. Returning to The Old Globe Theatre for the twelfth year, How the Grinch Stole Christmas is sure to be a magical journey through your memory and on stage.

This American classic turned whimsical production directed by Benjamin Endlsey Klein and choreographed by John DeLuca (Nine, Memoirs of a Geisha, Chicago), will sure to be the reason for a brighter holiday for children and adults alike. Starring Jeff Skowron as The Grinch, this rendition will feature the songs "This Time of Year," "It’s the Thought that Counts" and "Fah Who Doraze," the delightful carol from the popular animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

How the Grinch Stole Christmas runs at the Old Globe until December 27th with several performances daily. Tickets range in price from $39 to $79 per adult and $20 to $59 per child. The Old Globe is located in San Diego’s Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call 619-234-5623.

Performance Schedule as follows:

Dec 9 WED at 7:00pm
Dec 11 FRI at 7:00pm
Dec 12 SAT at 11:00am
Dec 12 SAT at 2:00pm
Dec 12 SAT at 5:00pm
Dec 12 SAT at 8:00pm
Dec 13 SUN at 11:00am
Dec 13 SUN at 2:00pm
Dec 13 SUN at 5:00pm

Jeff Skowron as The Grinch
Craig Schwartz
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

Nov 21, 09 thru Dec 27, 09

For the twelfth consecutive year, the Old Globe brings to life Dr. Seuss’ heart-warming holiday classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, in the form of an extravagant family-friendly musical.

Colorful costumes, whimsical set designs inspired by Dr. Seuss’ original illustrations, and favorite songs from the popular animated version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* mark what is quickly becoming a San Diego holiday tradition.

Originally conceived by the Globe’s former artistic director, Jack O’Brien, *Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas* recently made its way to Broadway where it broke box office attendance records during limited engagements in 2006 and 2007.

Jeff Skowron, who was part of both Broadway casts, ascends to the title role of the Green Meanie himself in this year’s run at the musical’s birthplace. His other Broadway credits include *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *High Society*, and *The Boy from Oz* (opposite Hugh Jackman).

Once again, the Globe’s stage will be transformed into a snow-covered Whoville, right down to the last can of Who-hash. The entire spectacle is directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein, who also headed the Globe’s 2007 production.

Regular performance times are set at such kid-friendly hours as 7:00 p.m., Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, with an additional 8:00 p.m. time on Saturday and a 5:00 p.m. curtain on Sunday.

**The Old Globe**

**Hours:** Performances: Sun. Tue. Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Thu. Fri. Sat. 8:00 p.m.
Sat. and Sun. 2:00 p.m. (except Shakespeare Festival productions in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, which are Tue.-Sun. at 8:00 p.m.)
Box Office: Open Tues-Sun. at noon. Closes at last curtain Closed some holidays

**Contact:**
(619) 23-GLOBE
http://www.TheOldGlobe.org

**Directions:**
Map to Park Location 6
Old Globe Announces Full Cast for Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

By: Andy Propst · Nov 6, 2009 · San Diego

Full casting has been announced for the Old Globe's 12th annual production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, to run November 21 - December 27. Benjamin Endsley Klein will direct the production.

With book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the production will star Jeff Skowron in the title role. The company will also feature Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Logan Lipton (Young Max), Shea Stårss Siben and Anna Bahen (Cindy-Lou Who), Anne Fraser Thomas (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Kürt Norby (Grandpa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), Dylan Nalbandian and Jonas McMullen (Boo Who), Alison Grace Norwood and Danica Waitley (Annie Who), A.J. Foggiano and Dylan Mulvaney (Danny Who), Gaby Greenwald and Kayla Solsbak (Betty-Lou Who) with Aaron Acosta, Amy Biedel, Felicity Bryant, Genevieve Ciavarelli, Karli Cruise, Shianne Evans, Anna George, Aidan Cruz Hayek, Hannah Rose Kornfeld, Ashley Fox Linton, Allison Ma, Erik McEwen, Michael Mendez, Jordan Miller, Anise Ritchie, James Vasquez and Alexis Louise Young (Ensemble).

The original production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! was conceived and directed by Jack O'Brien with original choreography by John DeLuca. This season's production features musical direction by John Samorian, additional choreography by Bob Richard with choreography restaged by James Vasquez. The creative team also includes John Lee Beatty (scenic design), Robert Morgan (costume design), Pat Collins (lighting design), and Paul Peterson (sound design).

For further information, visit: www.theoldglobe.org.

Old Globe Announces Full Cast for Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

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more: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Old Globe Announces Full Cast for Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christm... http://www.theatermania.com/san-diego/news/11-2009/old-globe-announc...
The Old Globe Announces Complete Cast and Creative Team For HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

Friday, November 6, 2009; Posted: 01:11 PM - by BWNewsDesk

The complete cast and creative team is set for the Globe's 12th annual production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The favorite holiday classic, directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre November 21 - December 27. Previews run from Nov. 21 - Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 27 at 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from $39 to $79 for adults and from $20 to $59 for children (3-17 years). Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for its 12th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "This Time of Year," "It's the Thought that Counts" and "Fah Who Doraze," the delightful carol from the popular animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Celebrate the holidays as the Old Globe Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Who-ville, right down the last can of Who-hash.

As previously announced, Jeff Skowron headlines as The Grinch. The cast also features Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Logan Lipton (Young Max), Shea Starrs Siben and Anna Bahen (Cindy-Lou Who), Anne Fraser Thomas (Mama Who), Steve Gonderson (Papa Who), Kurt Norby (Grandpa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), Dylan Nabandan and Jonas McKulien (Boo Who), Allison Grace Norwood and Danica Waitley (Annie Who), A.J. Foggin and Dylan Mulvany (Danny Who), Gaby Greenwald and Kayla Solsbak (Betty-Lou Who) with Aaron Acosta, Amy Biedel, Felicity Bryan, Genevieve Ciavarelli, Karli Cruise, Shianne Evans, Anna George, Aidan Cruz Hayek, Hannah Rose Kornfeld, Ashley Fox Linton, Allison Ma, Erik McGeeen, Michael Mendez, Jordan Miller, Anise Ritchie, James Vasquez and Alexis Louise Young (Ensemble).

The original production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! was conceived and directed by Jack O'Brien with original choreography by John DeLuca. This season's production features Musical Direction by John Samarono, Additional Choreography by Bob Richard with Choreography Restaged by James Vasquez. The Grinch creative team also includes John Lee Beatty (Scenic Design), Robert Morgan (Costume Design), Pat Collins (Lighting Design), Paul Peterson (Sound Design), Anita Ruth (Orchestrator), Joshua Rosenblum (Vocal Arrangements and Incidental Music), David Krane (Dance Music Arranger), Leila Knox (Stage Manager), and Annette Ye (Assistant Stage Manager).

Jeff Skowron is no stranger to Grinch, having performed in both the 2007 and 2008 Broadway productions as a citizen of Whoville. His Broadway credits also include The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, High Society, and the upcoming Enron. He has appeared Off Broadway in Debbie Does Dallas and Zombie Prom. Regionally he has played Hysterium in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and Luther in the world premiere of Leap, both at Cincinnati Playhouse; and Hedwig in Hedwig and the Angry Inch at the Contemporary American Theatre. His films include New York City Serenade, The Narrowes, How to Seduce Difficult Women, The Good Shepherd, A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints, Premium and Chapter 27.

Benjamin Endsley Klein directed the Globe's 2007 and 2008 productions of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! and served as Assistant Director in 2005. On Broadway, he was the Assistant Director of The Coast of Utopia, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels and Barefoot in the Park, and on London's West End he was the Associate Director of Hairspray. Klein is the recipient of the National Theatre Conference 2007 Paul Green Foundation Award and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society's 2005-06 Mike Ockrent Fellowship.

The fourth annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. on the Globe's Copley 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, the unique tree will be located 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. Tickets to this free event are limited but may be obtained by subscribers and included with the tickets to the November 20 performance at 4:30.

Grinch Family Day, an engaging family celebration for children of all ages, will take place on Sunday, December 20 from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The event includes an afternoon of crafts, games, treats and merriment on the Globe's Copley Plaza and tickets to a live performance of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! in the Old Globe Theatre at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. Grinch Family Day tickets are $75 for children and $100 for adults. VIP tickets are $100 for children and $125 for adults. VIP ticket holders receive premium theatre seating. All proceeds support the Globe's education and community programs for young people. For tickets to Grinch Family Day, contact the Globe Box Office at (619) 23-GLOBE.

TICKETS to Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Performances begin on Nov. 21 and continue through Dec. 27. Ticket prices range from $39 to $79 for adults and from $20 to $59 for children (3-17 years). Performance times: Previews: Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday Nov. 22 at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7:00 p.m and Friday, November 27 at 2:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tues-Friday at 7:00
The Old Globe Announces Complete Cast and Creative Team For HOW...
Jeff Skowron Stars in The Old Globe's HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS, 11/21 - 12/27

*new*

Saturday, November 21, 2009; Posted: 02:11 AM - by BWW News Desk

Jeff Skowron is set to star as the Grinch in the Globe's 12th annual production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas. The annual holiday musical, directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre November 21 - December 27. Previews run from Nov. 21 - Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 27 at 7:00 p.m.

**Dr. Seuss** How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for its 12th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "This Time of Year," "It's the Thought that Counts" and "Fah Who Doraze," the delightful Carol from the popular animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Celebrate the holidays as the Old Globe Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Whoville, right down to the last can of Who-hash.

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The complete cast will be announced at a later date.

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27 at 2:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tues-Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 5:00 p.m. No performances on Thanksgiving, December 3, 4 or 10, and Christmas, and no 8:00 p.m. performance on December 5. Additional performances: Saturday, December 5, 12 and 19 at 5:00 p.m.

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

The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is one of the country's leading professional regional theaters and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 74 years. Under the direction of Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto, The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 productions of classic, contemporary and new works on its three Balboa Park stages: the 580-seat Old Globe Theatre, the 250-seat Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre and the 612-seat outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, home of its internationally renowned Shakespeare Festival. More than 250,000 people attend Globe productions annually and participate in the theater's education programs and outreach services. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as The Full Monty, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, A Catered Affair, and the annual holiday musical, Dr. Seuss How The Grinch Stole Christmas!, have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theaters across the country.

Comments

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- GLEE Star Jenna Ushkowitz Talks Stage and Screen to The NY Post
- Daniel Reichard's Holiday Concert GETTIN' ON THE GOOD SIDE Opens 12/12
- B Street Theatre Announces 2009-2010 Family Series Season
- Broadway Run begin at The John Golden Theater 2/19
- BURN THE FLOOR Gets Final Extension Thru 2/14; Features Guest Stars Mary Murphy, Edyta Sliwinska & Alec Mazo
- Floating Theatre Co Presents THE SANTALAND DIARIES 12/20 - 1/3
- MTC Presents HERSHEY AND THE HANNUKAH GOBILNS
- Nick Lachey Set to Host NBC's 'Sing-Off' Miniseries Competition, 12/14
- Performing Network Teams Up With Toys For Tots Competition
- ZERO HOUR to Host Free Special Event - Survivors of the Blacklist, A Panel Discussion 11/24 At Theatre At St. Clement's
- GLEE Star Jenna Ushkowitz Talks Stage and Screen to The NY Post

http://sandiego.broadwayworld.com/article/Jeff_Skowron_Stars_in_The...
Photo Flash: Dr. Seuss' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! at the Old Globe

The Old Globe's 12th annual production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The annual holiday musical, directed by Benjamin Endslow Klein with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Hel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre November 21 - December 27. Previews run from Nov. 21 - Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Seuss! How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for its 12th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "This Time of Year," "It's the Thought that Counts" and "Fah Who Dorace," the delightful carol from the popular animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Celebrate the holidays as the Old Globe Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Whoville, right down to the last can of Who-hash.

As previously announced, Jeff Skowron headlines as The Grinch. The cast also features Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Logan Lioton (Young Max), Shea Starrs Siben and Anna Bahner (Cindy-Lou Who), Anne Fraser Thomas (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Kurt Norby (Grandpa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), Dylan Nalliband and Jonas MCPullen (Bigo Who), Alison Grace Norewood and Danica Waitley (Amnie Who), A.J. Foggiano and Dylan Mulvaney(DannyWho),Gaby Greenwald and Kayla Solstk (Betty-LouWho)with Aaron Acosta, Amy Biedel, Felicity Bryant, Genevieve Ciavarelli, Karli Cruise, Shianne Evans, Anna George, Aidan Cruz Hayek, Hannah Rose Kornfeld, Ashley Fox Linton, Allison Ma, Erik McKewn, Michael Mendez, Jordan Miller, Aniset Ritchle, James Vasquez and Alexis Louise Young (Ensemble).

The original production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! was conceived and directed by Jack O'Brien with original choreography by John DeLuca. This season's production features Musical Direction by John Samorian, Additional Choreography by Bob Richard with Choreography Restaged by James Vasquez. The Grinch creative team also includes John Lee Beatty (Scenic Design), Robert Morgan (Costume Design), Pat Collins (Lighting Design), Paul Petersen (Sound Design), Anita Ruth (Orchestrator), Joshua Rosenfelt (Vocal Arrangements and Incidental Music), David Krazig (Dance Music Arranger), Leila Kruz (Stage Manager), and Annette Yé (Assistant Stage Manager).

Grinch Family Day, an engaging family celebration for children of all ages, will take place on Sunday, December 20 from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The event includes an afternoon of crafts, games, treats and merriment on the Globe's Copley Plaza and tickets to a live performance of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! in the Old Globe Theatre at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. Grinch Family Day tickets are $75 for children and $100 for adults. VIP ticket holders receive premium theatre seating. All proceeds support the Globe's education and community programs for young people. For tickets to Grinch Family Day, contact the Globe Box Office at (619) 23-GLOBE.

Tickets to Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Performances begin on Nov. 21 and continue through Dec. 27. Ticket prices range from $39 to $79 for adults and from $20 to $59 for children (3-17 years). Performance times: Previews: Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday Nov. 22 at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7:00 p.m. and Friday, November 27 at 2:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesdays-Thursday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

November 5. Additional performances: December 3, 4 or 10, and Christmas, and no 8:00 performance on Saturday, December 5. Additional performances: Saturday, December 5, 12 and 19 at 5:00 p.m.

The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is one of the country's leading professional regional theaters and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 74 years. Under the direction of Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto, The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 productions of classic, contemporary and new works on its three Balboa Park stages: the 600-seat Old Globe Theatre, the 250-seat Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre and the 612-seat outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. Home of its internationally renowned Shakespeare Festival, More than 250,000 attend Old Globe productions annually and participate in the theater's education and community programs. Numerous world premiers such as The Full Monty, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, A Catered Affair, and the annual holiday musical, Dr. Seuss! How the Grinch Stole Christmas! have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs on Broadway and at regional theaters across the country.

Photos by Craig Schwartz.
tickets such as Oliver tickets but also on a lot of amazing concert tickets. Whenever we want Wicked tickets we go to OnlineSeats. They have the best deals on all Broadway shows, from Jersey Boys tickets for the jukebox musical to family friendly shows with Lion King tickets and Addams Family tickets. Even find the newSpiderman the Musical tickets. 

Jeff Skowron and the cast
Photo Flash: Dr. Seuss' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! at th...
Photo Flash: Dr. Seuss' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! at th...
Fantastic pics, you look awesome Jeff. Can't wait to see the show.

Reply
a whirlwind of nutcrackers

"In the season of "The Nutcracker," "The Grinch," and "A Christmas Carol," along with other typical holiday fare. Happily, this year a Chanukah celebration is part of the festive mix, thanks to the North Coast Repertory Theatre. Jerry Seinfeld will keep em laughing during two performances at the Civic Theatre, the highly acclaimed Ten Tenors will sing up a storm during their weekly run, "Bonnie and Clyde" will continue its wild ride at the La Jolla Playhouse, and J'Company will take on "The King and I," so there should be something for everyone around town this month.

Three cheers for the North Coast Rep for giving local families an opportunity to participate in a unique Chanukah experience. The repertory will feature hosts Marc Silver and Doug Dickerman Dec. 5-7 in a performance dubbed "How Do You Spell Chanukkah?" This exciting holiday event will feature music and storytelling. Sounds like great fun for the whole family.

The La Jolla Playhouse unveiled the world premiere of "Bonnie and Clyde" in its Mandell Weiss Theatre last month, and this fascinating new musical will stay put through Dec. 20. Based on the lives of the infamous Depression-era outlaws, "Bonnie and Clyde" stars Stark Sands and Laura Osnes and features several local actors in the large cast. The score is a mix of rebellious, bluesy and gospel music, and Tony Award-winner Don Black wrote the dead-on lyrics. After a sold-out weekend at the rehearsals, it was obvious this "Bonnie and Clyde" has a lot of heart. It's not just a tale of violence in a by-gone age, and the music suits the story so well. No wonder Playhouse managing director Michael Rosenberg is enthusiastic about this red-hot finale to the season.

For many San Diegans, "The Nutcracker" is synonymous with the holiday season, and this month there are plenty of "Nutcrackers" on tap. The California Ballet's "Nutcracker" will start at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts Dec. 12-13. Then a full-blown production moves to the Civic Theatre Dec. 19-22, where dancers will perform live music by the San Diego Symphony. City Ballet's "Nutcracker," danced with a full orchestra, is slated for the Spreckels (now the company's official home) Dec. 11-20. Your youngsters can have lunch with the Sugarplum Fairy and Friends at the nearby Bristol Hotel right before each Saturday matinee.

The San Diego Ballet's staging of the holiday bonanza will take over Mandeville Auditorium Dec. 4 for a two-weekend run, and the California Center for the Arts in Escondido will have two "Nutcracker's" -- one Dec. 4-5 and the other Dec. 18-19. This year's "Nutcracker" riches should give local audiences a chance to enjoy many different visions of sugarplums.

Broadway-San Diego has two special offerings heading for the Civic Theatre this month. Jerry Seinfeld will return to the stage for concerts Dec. 5. The king of stand-up comedy will perform here as part of his cross-country tour. "The Ten Tenors" will take up residency at the Civic Dec. 8-13, delivering their unique brand of music to local aficionados.

The Old Globe's 12th annual production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" will continue to delight youngsters through Dec. 27. This year, Jeff Skowron is the Grinch in a lively production of the popular musical, directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein. The Globe's annual "Grinch Family Day" (which includes Grinch-related arts and crafts activities along with the performance) is slated for Dec. 20.

You can celebrate with Globe supporters Dec. 7 when the theater reaps the grand opening of its new Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. The evening will include a special performance by two Broadway stars to officially inaugurate the new Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre. The Globe recently added a special kick-off event for the new theater. "I Do! I Do!" will grace the new stage Dec. 10-20. The two-character play stars real-life married couple Patrick Page and Paige Davis. The Globe is calling it a "musical gift" for the holidays, and it is certainly a welcome treat!
Special Events

November 5
La Jolla Gallery & Wine Walk
Enjoy a wonderful evening of beautiful art, amazing cuisine and fine wines. Explore over 25 of the areas most prominent galleries showcasing world-renowned artwork while enjoying countless samples of robust reds, delicate whites as well as delicious samples from some of the La Jolla's best restaurants. For tickets and more phone 619.233.5008 or lajollabythesea.com.

November 14
Park Manor Suites & Hornblower Proudly Present: Rainbow On The Bay
Dine and dance the night away with your special someone or group of friends at this gay, lesbian and gay-friendly dinner cruise on the beautiful San Diego Bay. For further information on this special evening from the Park Manor Suites as well as San Diego's premier yacht charter company, Hornblower, go to hornblower.com.

November 12
Planned Parenthood's Cocktails for Choice
Mosaic Wine Bar at 3422 30th Street in North Park will host "Cocktails for Choice," a networking event aimed at 25-40 year olds who support a woman's right to choose. "Young people are especially passionate about reproductive rights, and we wanted to give them a social environment to come together, discuss issues of the day, and exchange professional information," said Darrah DiGiorgio Johnson, President & CEO of Planned Parenthood of San Diego & Riverside Counties. Online registration is $15 and $20 at the door.

November 22
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
This annual event will take place at 6:00 p.m. on the Old Globe's Copley Plaza. The ceremony will kick off the holiday season in conjunction with the presentation of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Festivities include a special performance by members of the Grinch cast and holiday snowfall on the Globe Plaza. Tickets to this event are limited but may be obtained by subscribers and are included with the tickets to the November 20 performance. Dial 619.23. GLOBE for more information.
Balboa Park December Nights

Friday, 12/4/09, 5 -10 p.m.; Saturday, 12/5/09, noon-10 p.m.

Taking holiday cheer to a whole new level, Balboa Park presents the 32nd installment of December Nights. The festivities officially kick off the holiday season on Saturday and Sunday, December 4-5, with old and new traditions and loads of family favorites.

Costumed carolers, bell-ringers, and Santa and his helpers will be out in force to greet the 400,000 anticipated visitors, who will be treated to traditional outdoor stage presentations by the San Diego Junior Theatre, San Diego Civic Youth Ballet, and other performing arts groups. More

SDG&E Helps December Nights Go Green

San Diego Gas & Electric, a Sempra Energy utility, will once again dazzle December Nights visitors with an energy-efficient canopy of LED holiday lights over the Plaza de Panama, illuminating the Park for the entire holiday season. More
Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

The Old Globe, 11/21-12/27/09

For the twelfth consecutive year, the Old Globe brings to life Dr. Seuss' heart-warming holiday classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, in the form of an extravagant family-friendly musical.

Colorful costumes, whimsical set designs inspired by Dr. Seuss' original illustrations, and favorite songs from the popular animated version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* mark what is quickly becoming a San Diego holiday tradition. More

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**Block Busters**

The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, opens 11/21/09

By filling a gallery space with 15,000 KEVA wood building planks, the fully interactive exhibition, Block Busters, at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center enables everyone to discover their inner engineer, artist, architect, and child.

Inspired by the popularity of the KEVA blocks section of the Fleet's recent Tinkering exhibition, Block Busters gives young and old alike a chance to unleash their imaginations as they turn piles of 4 ½-inch-long maple wood planks into a collection of surprisingly stable structures. More

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**Porsche**

San Diego Automotive Museum, thru 12/31/09

Over the past 60 years, the Porsche has emerged as the world's most prestigious high-performance sports car. A new exhibition at the San Diego Automotive Museum gives visitors a chance to get up close with over a dozen of these finely crafted machines that span the history of Porsche's manufacturing line. More

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**Ask Cosmos**

Unique Holiday Gift Ideas to Chew on

Jack asks: Dear Cosmos, If I have to

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Santa and the HO! HO! HO! Thief

Santa and Alfie Elf thwart the witch's plans to ruin Christmas.

Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater, 11/25-12/3/09

**Winter C-Note Event**

Buy fine art right off the walls at this lively fundraiser.

San Diego Art Institute, 11/27-12/13/09

**American Artists of the Russian Empire**

Nearly 70 works by some of the best-known postwar artists.

San Diego Museum of Art, thru 1/17/10

**Beloved Daughters: Photographs by Fazal Sheikh**

Intimate portraits document the plight of women in India.

Museum of Photographic Arts, thru 1/31/10

**Transformed by Fire: June Schwarz Enamel Vessels**

Retrospective exhibition of this country's leading enamellist.

Mingei International Museum, thru 3/10/10

**Ask Cosmos**

The Park's resident doggie blogger serves up tips for the most discriminating holiday shoppers. More

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> Se Habla Español!

For park information in Spanish, please visit our Web site's new Spanish-language area or pick up a Spanish map brochure in the Balboa Park Visitors Center on your next visit.
chew on another Barbie doll, mp3 player, or sheepskin slipper this holiday season, I think I'm going to hurl all over the new Berber carpet. Where should my family go to find truly unique gifts this year?

**Cosmos:** Well, Jack, while I can't encourage chewing on your family's nice holiday presents, I can help you direct them to the many stores in Balboa Park that offer the widest selection of one-of-a-kind gift items. [More]

> The City of San Diego, Park & Recreation
“DR. SEUSS’ HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS”
Previews begin Saturday in San Diego
A new Grinch (actor Jeff Skowron) helms the Old Globe’s 12th annual production of this Mel Marvin/Timothy Mason musical based on Dr. Seuss’ holiday book about a mischievous mountain creature who steals holiday trees and gifts from villagers in the valley below; previews through Nov. 26; opens Nov. 27 and runs through Dec. 27; showtimes vary, but generally 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; 11 a.m., 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. Sundays; Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego: $39-$79, adults; $20-$59, children ages 3 to 17, 619-234-5623 or www.theoldglobe.org.

— Pam Kragen, arts editor
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**Diary of San Diego**

- **Sunday, November 1:**
  - *Disney's Live King:* San Diego Civic Theatre
  - *Santa Fe Chamber Orchestra:*

- **Monday, November 2:**
  - *Cinderella:* San Diego Musical Theatre

- **Tuesday, November 3:**
  - *NOV. 1: JAN. 3 2010*
  - *Benn & Cory: La Batalla del Noroeste*

- **Wednesday, November 4:**
  - *Benny Hill:* House of Blues

- **Saturday, November 7:**
  - *LEGO's The Invention:* San Diego Museum of Art

- **Friday, November 13:**
  - *Legos vs. Superman:* San Diego Museum of Art

- **Wednesday, November 18:**
  - *CAFÉ TACUBA HOUSE OF BLUES*

- **Friday, November 20:**
  - *Santos Popo:* House of Blues

- **Tuesday, November 24:**
  - *Godspell:* The Horton Grand Theatre

- **Tuesday, November 24:**
  - *Dr. Seuss, How The Grinch Stole Christmas:* The Old Globe

- **Wednesday, November 25:**
  - *CAFÉ TACUBA HOUSE OF BLUES*

- **Friday, November 27:**
  - *CAFÉ TACUBA HOUSE OF BLUES*

- **Saturday, November 28:**
  - *CAFÉ TACUBA HOUSE OF BLUES*

- **Sunday, November 29:**
  - *CAFÉ TACUBA HOUSE OF BLUES*
"Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas"
"グリッチはどうやってクリスマスを盗んだのか"

緑の怪物グリッチとクリスマス／ホリデーの定番ミュージカル

米国の電気作家ドクター・スースによる児童書を原作としたミュージカル。今年で12年目のSD公演を迎えるホリデーシーズン恒例の作品。絵本から抜け出したようなユニークでカラフルな衣装に身を包んだ村人たちと嫌われ者グリッチの交流を、歌と踊りを交えて描く。ラストシーンは降雪機で雪が舞い、舞台に美しい純白の世界が広がる。原作は2000年にロンハワード監督により実写映画化された。

THE GLOBE THEATRES. 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park / 619-239-2255 (T). 期間—11/21(土)～12/27(日)。上演—火～金曜：7pm、土曜：11am、2pm、5pm & 8pm（変動あり）、日曜：11am、2pm & 7pm。チケット—$20～$79。http://www.oldglobe.org
Kevin Bailey as the Grinch, from the 2007 cast of Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Old Globe Theatre.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOV. 22

BREAKFAST WITH SHAMU AND SANTA — SeaWorld is offering children and their families an opportunity to have a buffet breakfast in the park, up-close to Shamu and his killer whale family, with a special visit from Santa Claus; 10 to 11 a.m. (through Thursday); program also runs Dec. 18 to 31; SeaWorld, 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego; $26, general; $16, ages 3 to 9 (in addition to park admission and parking); 800-257-4258 or www.seaworldsandiego.com.

JULIAN ARTS GUILD 2009 OPEN STUDIO & GALLERIES TOUR — The Julian artists group hosts its annual studios tour. Maps to artists’ homes and studios can be picked up at the Julian Chamber of Commerce; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; $10 per car; 760-765-0484 or ulianartsguild.org.

POINSETTIA GREENHOUSE TOURS — Weidners Gardens in Encinitas opens its poinsettia greenhouse for guided tours, offering behind-the-scenes tips and facts on growing the colorful holiday plants. Also, floral designer Debbie Johnson will be creating arrangements with poinsettias and succulents. Hot cider, cookies and door prizes will be offered; tours at 11 a.m., 1:30 and 3 p.m.; Weidners Gardens, 695 Normandy Road, Encinitas; free; 760-436-2194.

DEL MAR ANTIQUE SHOW CONCLUDES — More than 250 antique dealers from throughout the Western United States offer antiques and collectibles during the 50th annual show. This year’s show is subtitled the “Century of Style Design Show,” with a focus on antiques from the 20th century, including arts and crafts, art deco, midcentury modern and art nouveau pieces. There will be booths specializing in crystal, glass, pottery, art, jewelry, silver, Americana, primitives, furniture and paper ephemera. There will also be antique and restoration artists on hand for consultations on wicker, damaged glass, crystal, porcelain, pottery, rugs and jewelry. Professional appraisers will offer $5 appraisals; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar; $8; $9 parking; www.calendardchows.com.

CALIFORNIA SURF FESTIVAL CONCLUDES — The second festival, sponsored by the California Surf Museum and Fuel TV, finishes with a program of film screenings from noon to 3 p.m. at the Sunshine Brooks Theater, followed by an awards ceremony from 3 to 4 p.m., where local surfer Gary Linden will receive the Silver Surfer Award and the festival’s top short films will be honored; noon to 4:30 p.m.; 217 N. Coast Highway, Oceanside; $10 film screenings; $15, award ceremony; 760-579-3826 or www.californiasurfestival.com.

OLD GLOBE TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY — Several hundred spectators are expected at the Old Globe Theatre’s annual tree-lighting ceremony on Copley Plaza in Balboa Park. The event features a performance by members of the “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas” cast, a surprise storm of holiday “snow” on the plaza and a visit from the Grinch; 6 p.m.; free to subscribers and to ticketholders for this afternoon’s performance at 4:30 p.m.; Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego; 619-234-5623.

TUESDAY, NOV. 24

LEGO TRAIN OPENS — The San Diego Model Railroad Museum opens its annual Lego train exhibit, featuring the largest-ever miniature train layout decorated with displays made from Lego bricks, including a ski resort, hydroelectric dam, town, country structures, undersea areas and nine independently running light rail and main track lines; runs through Jan. 15; Balboa Park, 1649 El Prado, San Diego; $7, 619-234-5623.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

HOTEL DEL OPENS ICE RINK — The Hotel del Coronado’s oceanfront Windsor Lawn will be transformed into an public ice arena during the resort’s fifth annual “Skating by the Sea” season; 2 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m. daily, plus a third session from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekends (after Dec. 19, all three sessions will be offered daily).
Fondazione Azzurra Presents:
Franco Battiato
10/18/2009 - 11/1/2010
Iconoclastic Italian Musician Franco Battiato First Ever LA concert Multi-talented Italian singer-songwriter and composer Franco Battiato is internationally regarded as one of the most original creators in Italian music from the 1970s to the present.

The Old Globe Presents:
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas
America's favorite holiday fable, back for its 12th incredible year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that will once again jump right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and on to the Old Globe's stage. Come take part in the fun as the Old Globe Theatre is transformed into the snow-covered Who-ville right down to the last can of Who-hash!

LA Phil Presents:
Piano Spheres: California Keyboard
11/29/2009
Performances by: Gloria Cheng, Vicki Ray, Mark Robson, Susan Svrcek Music by CAGE, COWELL, POWELL, KRAFT, JARVINEN, LESEMANN, NADOO and LENTZ. Displaying powerhouse technique while bringing contemporary works to life, the innovative Los Angeles-based Piano Spheres presents an exploration of the sounds and styles of notable California composers.

GJK Productions Presents:
National Comedy Theatre
11/20/2009 - 1/30/2010
The National Comedy Theatre is San Diego's nationally acclaimed improv comedy show. Similar in style to Drew Carey's "Whose Line is it Anyway?" the National Comedy Theatre (NCT) is a high-octane comedy show based completely on audience suggestions.

Morgan-Wixson Theatre Presents:
Musical "A Christmas Carol"
11/21/2009 - 12/12/2009
Lively musical adaptation of Dicken's rich 1843 story is ideal for our challenging times. A holiday favorite for adults and children of many faiths, featuring talented students (age 7 to 18) from 20 local schools. Q&A with cast/director immediately following performances on 11/22 and 12/5.

World Festival of Sacred Music-Los Angeles Presents:
GIVING THANKS
11/28/2009
An expression of gratitude for all our moments. Music, dance of BRAZIL/INDIA/HAWAII Featuring 45 musicians & dancers from: Haalau Keali'i O Nalani Shakti Dance Company Viver Brasil

Athenaeum Music & Arts Library Presents:
Mike Wofford Trio
11/28/2009
The conclusion of the Athenaeum Jazz at The Neurosciences Institute fall series.
Weekend eight greats: Black Friday doobusters and holiday hijinks

Posted By joseph.pen

We’re jump-starting the holiday season and the weekend with our weekend eight greats. Post-Thanksgiving, the city starts to show its holiday spirit in so many unique ways (seaside ice skating anyone?). Read on to discover ways to kick off the season!

Proceeds from Father Joe’s Thanksgiving 5K Run/Walk will help Father Joe’s Villages serve more than 1.7 million meals this year alone. (Courtesy photo)

Father Joe’s Thanksgiving 5K Run/Walk [2]: Get into the holiday spirit with a brisk 5K run/walk that benefits Father Joe’s Villages, a nonprofit that serves more than 900 needy families, and serves more than 3,000 meals a day to San Diego’s hungry. Proceeds will help Father Joe’s Villages serve more than 1.7 million meals this year alone. According to the charity, dire economic circumstances are forcing more people to seek help — and Father Joe’s needs your help to serve them. The 5K run/walk will step off in Balboa Park at 8 a.m. Thanksgiving day. Race-day registration is $31 for people 13 and older; $21 for children ages 6-12; and free for children younger than 5. Register at 6:30 a.m. in the Organ Pavilion on race day.

Scott Carlson Thanksgiving Dinner [3]: For more than two decades, the Scott Carlson Thanksgiving Dinner has created a family-style Thanksgiving atmosphere for people living with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are always welcome at the annual event, and with the growing number of people needing food Thanksgiving Day. your support and volunteer time is crucial. When the dinner was served its first year — 1988 — it was common for people living with HIV/AIDS to be shut out of family dinners. Scott Carlson, one of the dinner’s founders, lived with AIDS and died in the early 1990s. His goal was to create a holiday meal for people who had nowhere else to go. Last year, more than 140 people were served at the dinner, which brings people from various communities together to celebrate the holiday. The First Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 4190 Front St., will host the dinner Thanksgiving Day at 11 a.m. Give thanks by serving others. For more information, call (619) 298-9978.

Black Friday [4]: Black Friday isn’t for the weak-minded. You have to bring your A-game to navigate the maze of doobuster deals and early bird sales on retail’s single biggest sales day of the year. And, according to the experts San Diego News Network talked with [4] this week, you can’t afford to spend too much time price comparing and waiting to get a steal on must-have items. Retailers will stock fewer inventories, so once the shelves are stripped, the unbelievable deals are done. If it’s all too overwhelming for you, we’ve compiled a Black Friday resource guide [5], with open and close times of all San Diego’s major shopping centers and retail stores and deals around town. We also have insight into a few online deals [4], with links to Web resources for finding the best prices on Black Friday bargains. Hit the sack early on Thanksgiving Day — you’ll have to line up long before 4 a.m. to get your hands on some of the season’s biggest steals!

San Diego Chargers 50th Anniversary Block Party [6]: Still hot off a five-game win streak (including a 32-3 rout of Denver Sunday), the San Diego Chargers will celebrate 50 years by storming the Gaslamp Friday for the largest tailgate of the year. The block party, which runs from 5-11 p.m., will take place on Fifth Avenue in the heart of downtown between Island and J streets. Cosponsored by the San Diego Hall of Champions, the block party will introduce the greatest Chargers of all time, as voted by fans, and members of the Chargers Hall of Fame. Guest DJs and live music will entertain the crowds, a Fan Fest zone with interactive games will be available and more than 20 downtown hot spots will offer discounts on food and drinks. Tickets to the block party are $35 and available for purchase on the Chargers Web site [6]. And, don’t miss the San Diego Super Chargers Sunday when they face off with the Kansas City Chiefs at Qualcomm Stadium. Tickets for the game are still available [7].
KISS at the San Diego Sports Arena [8]: Supporting its latest project, one of the world’s most recognized rock bands — KISS — has kicked off a North American tour, and it’s stopping in San Diego Friday at the San Diego Sports Arena. Tickets for the Total KISS Spectacle tour are still on sale [9]. The sheer rock energy of the iconic band is enough to want to check the show out. There’s nothing like a little rock n’ roll to cure the Thanksgiving hangover. Tickets range from $15.50 to $126. The San Diego Sports Arena is located at 2500 Sports Arena Blvd.

Holiday of Lights [10]: Thanksgiving Day kicks off one of San Diego’s most beloved holiday traditions: The Holiday of Lights festival at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. More than 400 lighted and animated displays — including Candy Cane Lane, Toyland, San Diego County Fair Treasures by the Lake, Del Mar Racetrack, the Twelve Days of Christmas and Elves at Play — await. The 15-20 minute driving tour is accompanied this year by Friday Holiday Hayrides every half hour. The cost of admission for cars to drive through the Holiday of Lights is $14 per car, for up to five people and $19 per vehicle, with six or more people. Discount tickets are available at Albertsons/Sav-On stores for $12. The cost of the Holiday Hayride is $10 per person, and includes a trip through the Holiday of Lights, hot cocoa and a holiday cookie. Children ages 3 and younger ride free. The Holiday of Lights is open Friday through Thursday 5:30-10 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 5:30-11 p.m. The Del Mar Fairgrounds are located at 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Logan Lipton as Young Max and Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" at The Old Globe, Nov. 21 - Dec. 27, 2009. (Photo by Craig Schwartz)

Skating by the Sea [12]: Not many people have the opportunity to ice skate while overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The outdoor rink at the iconic Hotel Del Coronado offers San Diegans and visitors the unique Southern California experience each year. The Del’s 10,000-square-foot Windsor Lawn, located on the sand, is transformed into a winter wonderland. This year, the day before Thanksgiving, the rink will open to anxious skaters waiting to kick off the holiday season. Three-hour sessions are $20 for adults and $15 for kids, ages 10 years and younger; two-hour matinee sessions are $15 for adults and $10 for kids, ages 10 years and younger. Skate rental is $5 per person. And, one of the best things about the family-friendly activity is a portion of the proceeds will go to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego. The Hotel Del Coronado is located at 1500 Orange Ave. in Coronado. For more information, including times the rink is open, call (800) 468-3533.

‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas’ [13]: Tickets to The Old Globe’s annual holiday hit, Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas, are on sale now, and the musical runs through Dec. 27. The classic holiday tale is celebrating its twelfth year on the boards at the Globe, and each year it continues to delight children and adults. The Old Globe is transformed into the snow-covered Who-Ville, and everyone’s favorite green villain is back to try and spoil Christmas. By now, you’re familiar with the tale of the Grinch, but the Globe brings it to life in a way you have to see to believe. Tickets are $39, and they go fast. Visit the Globe’s Web site [13] for more information.
SAN DIEGO BEER WEEK
Date: November 6-15
Tickets: Prices vary by event
Info: sdnow.org
Venue: Locations around San Diego
Perk up at San Diego Beer Week, when the city's bars, restaurants and hotels team up with local and regional breweries to host a variety of events, including beer and cheese tastings, home-brewing classes and brewery tours. (Story Page 46)

SAN DIEGO BAY WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL
Date: November 10-12
Tickets: Prices vary by event
Info: 619-342-7337, worldofwineevents.com
Venue: Various locations around San Diego
Join more than 8,000 tastemakers in enjoying gourmet food samples and everything from Pinot Grigio to tequila at this five-day series of events, which includes cooking and wine-tasting classes and an olive oil competition.

OCEAN BEACH RESTAURANT WALK
Date: November 10
Tickets: $15
Info: 619-224-4906, oceanbeachsandiego.com
Venue: Restaurants around Ocean Beach
Savor an array of flavors during a self-guided tour of more than 20 Ocean Beach restaurants and bars. Tickets include free shuttle rides throughout the neighborhood.

THE ART OF THOMAS ARVID, THE WINES OF QUINTESIBA
Date: November 19
Dinner: $125 per person
Info: 619-237-1155
Venue: Fleming's Steakhouse, Downtown
flemingssteakhouse.com
A collection of Thomas Arvid's wine-centric paintings will be displayed, as diners enjoy a five-course dinner paired with the renowned artist's favorite wines.

19TH ANNUAL ENCINITAS FALL FESTIVAL
Date: November 25
Admission: Free
Info: 760.943.1950, encinitas101.com
Venue: Along Coast Highway 101, Encinitas
Encinitas becomes a family-friendly holiday-shopping bazaar with more than 400 vendors selling arts and crafts, gifts and food.

CHARGERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY
Date: November 27
Tickets: $30
Info: 619.233.3008, chargers.com
Venue: 7th and Market St., Gaslamp
The Chargers are finally middle-aged. Help thousands of fans celebrate the team's 50th anniversary at the biggest tailgate party of the year—in the Gaslamp.

FATHER JOE’S THANKSGIVING DAY 5K RUN/WALK
Date: November 26
Tickets: $20
Info: 619.466.2100, thanksgivingrun.org
Venue: Balboa Park
Take a giant leap for charity and compensate for a day overeating by participating in Father Joe’s annual 5K turkey trot, which starts and finishes in Balboa Park, then proceeds to a beer garden after-party.

PHOTO EXPO WEST
Date: November 14-15
Tickets: Free for show, $10 for classes
Info: photoshowwest.com
Venue: Del Mar Fairgrounds
Learn techniques from experts including photographer Douglas Kirkland (most famous for his iconic images of Marilyn Monroe) at the fifth annual Photo Expo West, where 5,000 hobbyists and professionals are expected to gather for seminars and to shop for discounted photography equipment.

LEGOLAND TREE LIGHTING
Date: November 30
Tickets: LEGOLAND Admission
Info: 760.918.5386 legoland.com
Venue: LEGOLAND California, Carlsbad
Tori Spelling and husband Dean McDermott help kick off the holidays by hosting LEGOLAND's annual tree lighting ceremony, headlined by popular children's entertainment group, The Jumpitz.
Dr. Seuss’ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is back on stage at the Old Globe for its 12th straight year! It runs through December 27th, with a special Family Day event on December 20th. Tickets are $39-$79 for adults and $29-$59 for children (3-17 years old). For more information, visit the [Old Globe website](http://mygaysandiego.com/san-diego-2/sneak-peek-of-%E2%80%98the-grinch%E2%80%99-at-the-old-globe.html).

And check out the photos below for a sneak peek at the show!
THE GRINCH IS BAAACK! Musical performances of Dr. Seuss' 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas,' matinees and evenings, Nov. 21-Dec. 27 at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. Tickets are $20-$79 at (619) 234-GLOBE or www.theoldglobe.org. COURTESY
Give a Grinch an Inch...

...and he'll take a smile. The Old Globe Theatre's annual delightful excursion into the depths and heights of being grinchy, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, starts Nov. 21 and plays through Dec. 27, with multiple daytime and early-evening shows (check the Globe site for times) to accommodate a young audience. 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, 619-234-5623, theoldglobe.org.
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Disney's THE LION KING
Through November 8
San Diego Civic Theatre
1100 Third Ave., San Diego
Whether this is your first, second, or tenth time – there's no reason not to relive the phenomenon of Disney's THE LION KING. It's visually stunning, technically astounding, and features a musical score like none other you've ever heard. Giraffes strut, birds swoop, and gazelles leap. Marvel at the breathtaking spectacle of animals brought to life by a cast of more than 40 actors, creating visual images that you'll be hard-pressed not to remember forever. Special note: family-friendly for all ages (but recommended for children 6+).
619-570-1100
www.broadwaysd.com
_wheelchair Accessible

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
November 21 – December 27
The Old Globe Theatre
1363 Old Globe Wy., San Diego
America's favorite holiday fable, back for its 12th incredible year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that once again jumps right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the stage. Come take part in the fun as the theatre is transformed into snow-covered Whoville right down to the last can of Who-bash.
619-23-GLOBE (234-6523)
www.theoldglobe.org
_wheelchair Accessible

Holidays on Hornblower
Thanksgiving – New Year's Eve
Hornblower Cruises and Events
1066 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego
Get ready for the sights and sounds of the magnificent San Diego Bay on one of Hornblower's Holiday Cruises. From flowing champagne to delicious buffets and beautiful scenery, this is a celebration that begins the moment you step on board.
619-725-8888
www.hornblowerholidays.com

San Diego Thanksgiving
Dixieland Jazz Festival
November 25 – 29
Town and County Resort and Convention Center
500 N. Harbor Cir., San Diego
Calling all jazz fans from around the globe. For your dancing and listening pleasure this holiday season, the crown jewel of jazz festivals features plenty of bands, international guest artists, and solo pianists. From ragtime to rockabilly, there's something here to suit every taste.
619-297-5277
www.dixielandjazzfestival.org
_wheelchair Accessible

All information subject to change. Please consult each individual event for up-to-date schedules, prices and more information.
「グリッチはどうやってクリスマスを盗んだのか」

緑の怪物グリッチとクリスマス／Dr. スース原作のホリデーショーグループ

世界で最もクリスマスを愛するフォーティブ村に、今年もホリデーシーズンがやってきた。村中がお祭り気分で盛り上がる中、ただ一人クリスマスを嫌う者がいた。それはクランベット山に住む緑色の怪物グリッチ。ひねくれ者でいたずら好きな彼は、クリスマスを台無しにして、村人たちを騒らせでやろうと計画する。同じ頃、グリッチの存在が気になって仕方のない村の娘シンディは、地下室で本人と偶然に出会い、友達になろうとするのだ…。

米国の人気絵本作家ドクター・スースによる児童書を原作としたミュージカル、今年で12年目のサンディエゴ公演を迎えるホリデーシーズン恒例の作品。絵本から抜け出したようなユニークでカラフルな衣装に身を包んだ村人たちと嬉わしさグリッチの交流を、歌と踊りを交えて描く。ラストシーンは降雪機で雪が降り、舞台に美しい綺麗な世界が広がる。原作は2000年にロン・ハワード監督により実写映画化され、ジム・キャリーがグリッチ役を映画で大ヒットを博した。

THE GLOBE THEATRES (Old Globe Theatre), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park / 619-239-2255 (T) 期間——11/21 (土) — 12/27 (日) 上演——火～木曜：7pm、土曜：11am、2pm、6pm & 8pm（変動あり）、日曜：11am、2pm & 7pm。チケット——$20～$79。http://www.oldglobe.org
How The Grinch Stole Christmas

Wednesday, Nov 25 7:00p
at Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, CA

The Old Globe Theatre kicks off the holiday season with Dr. Seuss' classic tale "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

The Old Globe has offered this timeless, theatrical holiday gift -- originally bestowed by Dr. Seuss' widow and longtime La Jolla resident, Audrey Geisel -- to San Diego since 1998....

Price: $20 - $49
Phone: (619) 234-5623
Categories: Theater, Holiday

Other Future Dates & Times

November 2009

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How The Grinch Stole Christmas at Old Globe Theatre - SignOnSanDiego.com
http://thingstodo.signonsandiego.com/san-diego-ca/events/show/8880630...
THE GRINCH IS BAAACK! Musical performances of Dr. Seuss' 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas,' matinees and evenings, Nov. 21-Dec. 27 at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. Tickets are $20-$79 at (619) 23-GLOBE or www.theoldglobe.org. COURTESY
THE GRINCH IS BAAACK! Musical performances of Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," matinees and evenings, Nov. 21-Dec. 27 at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. Tickets are $20-$79 at (619) 23-GLOBE or www.theoldglobe.org. COURTESY
The grumpy green goblin is back and starring in "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at 2 and 7 p.m. today; 11 a.m., 2 and 8 p.m. tomorrow and 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday. Through Dec. 27. Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego. $20-$69. (619) 234-5623.
Santa’s List of San Diego’s Holiday Plays

Posted by Jonathan Young on Friday, November 27, 2009 · Leave a Comment

From family classics and spiritual festivals to dark comedies and risque romps, there is something for everyone this season on the San Diego stage. The San Diego Entertainer presents a comprehensive list of holiday plays performing now through the end of the year. These are not all the plays being performed in San Diego — just the shows the feature Santa, Scrooge, the Grinch and all the other traditional cast of Christmas characters.

An American Christmas
Lamb’s Players Theatre
For the past fifteen years, the Hotel del Coronado has teamed with San Diego’s Lamb’s Players Theatre to present one of the most unique yuletide events in the nation, An American Christmas, a remarkable three-hour performance that takes place in the hotel’s beautiful Grand Ballroom.

Dec. 13-27
Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Ave. (In Coronado)
Tickets: $115-$160
Box Office: (619) 437-0600, lambsplayers.org

A Christmas Carol
North Coast Repertory Theatre
A crisp retelling of Dickens’ age-old story laced with love, compassion, forgiveness, and the knowledge that there is always time to change one’s direction in life if one chooses. This holiday treat is a favorite with young and old and everyone in between and continues to be one of the highlights of NCR’s annual holiday show line-up.

Dec. 11-27
North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987 Lomas Santa Fe Drive (In Solana Beach)
Box Office: (858) 481-1055, northcoastrep.org

A Christmas Carol, The Musical
Welk Resorts Theatre
How else do we freeze away the “humbug” in Ebenezer Scrooge! The large cast will embrace Victorian splendor while reenacting the timeless story. The emotional sentiments promise to be heightened by the attractive melodies of Alan Menken, composer of such cherished family musicals as Beauty and the Beast and The Little Mermaid.

Now through Jan. 3
Welk Resorts Theatre, 8860 Lawrence Welk Drive (In Escondido)
Tickets: $54-$57 (Extra for performance with buffet)
Box Office: (888) 802-7469, welktheatresandiego.com

A Christmas Story
San Diego Senior Theatre
Humorist Jean Shepherd reminisces about growing up in the Midwest during the 1940s with this tale of 9-year-old Ralphie Parker, who’s fixated with getting a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case to his mother and teacher, and even to Santa Claus himself, at a department store — but the responses are not what he wants to hear.

Dec. 4-20
La Jolla YMCA Firehouse Theatre, 7877 Herschel Ave. (In La Jolla)
Tickets: $11-$14
Box Office: (619) 239-8355, juniortheatre.com

Dr. Seuss’ How The Grinch Stole Christmas!
Old Globe Theatre
America’s favorite holiday fable, back for its twelfth incredible year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that 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 Who-ville right down to the last can of Who-hash!

Now through Dec. 27
Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way (In Balboa Park)
Tickets: $39-$79
Box Office: (619) 23-GLOBE, theoldglobe.org

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues
Compass Theatre
A dark, dark Christmas comedy that is really a hoot. Scandal erupts at the North Pole when one of Santa’s eight reindeer accuses him of sexual harassment. As mass media descend, the other reindeer demand to share their stories, and a hilarious & horrific tale of corruption and perversion emerges, which seems to implicate everyone from the littlest elf to the tainted Saint himself.

Dec. 4-20
Compass Theatre, 515 Pennsylvania Ave. (In Hillcrest)
Tickets: $17-$20
Box Office: (619) 688-9210, compasstheatre.com

Festival of Christmas
Lamb’s Players Theatre
Lamb’s Players Festival of Christmas creates authentic holiday magic, and a different story every year. Penney Lane is a recording studio on the outskirts of town, nestled beneath the railroad tracks, but soon they might be closed for good. Proprietors Chris and Soho have a scheme to keep the little studio alive — and their makeshift community of charming and eccentric friends and family rallies around them. It’s a “Christmas on the edge,” but no matter what happens, it will be filled with unforgettable music of the season.

Dec. 1-27
Lamb’s Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Ave. (In Coronado)
Tickets: $22-$58
Eight great options for holiday performances

Festive offerings encompass music, dance, theater, and film

By Valerie Scher, SDNN

Monday, November 30, 2009 | one comment | read comments | post a comment

Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in one of San Diego's most popular holiday productions, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" at The Old Globe. (Photo by Craig Schwartz)

With the holidays fast approaching, there are more events than you can shake a candy cane at.

So go ahead and enjoy music, dance, theater and film. Here’s a sampling of what awaits you.

“The Nutcracker”: It’s the quintessential holiday ballet, the Tchaikovsky-based charmer that can enchant youngsters as well as seasoned balletomanes. The oldest and best-known local production is the one by California Ballet. Excerpts are scheduled for December 5 at Chula Vista’s Mater Dei High School; catch the full presentation December 12-13 at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts and December 19-20 and 22 at downtown’s Civic Theatre, where performances will be accompanied by the San Diego Symphony. (858) 560-5676; www.californiaballet.org. Also consider the elegant version by City Ballet of San Diego, December 11-20 at downtown’s Spreckels Theatre. (858) 272-8663; www.cityballet.org, San Diego Ballet, now in its 20th anniversary season, serves up its witty “Nutcracker” December 4-5 at El Cajon’s East County Performing Arts Center and December 17-18 at UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium. (619) 294-7311; www.sandiegoballet.org. West Coast Ballet Theatre’s production boasts 200-plus performers, including Carrie Imler and Stanko Milov, both principal dancers from Seattle’s Pacific Northwest Ballet. Performances are December 18-19 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. (800) 988-4253; www.sandiegonutcracker.com. And 15-year-old Kiril Kulish - a Tony-winning star of Broadway’s “Billy Elliot” - returns to the San Diego Academy of Ballet to perform in its “Nutcracker,” December 4-5 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. (800) 988-4253; www.artcenter.org
“Messiah”: Handel’s most celebrated oratorio recalls its 18th-century roots in the version by Orchestra Nova San Diego and Bach Collegium San Diego. “We’re trying to re-create what might have been heard in Handel’s day,” Orchestra Nova conductor/artistic director Jung-Ho Pak has said. Performances are December 10 at St. Paul’s Cathedral, near downtown San Diego, December 11 at La Jolla’s St. James by-the-Sea, and December 12 at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church. (858) 350-0290; www.orchestranova.org. If you like the DIY (do-it-yourself) approach, San Diego has various options, including the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus' nifty “Christmas Messiah-Sing.” It takes place December 13 at Carlsbad’s St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. (858) 534-4636; www.lajollasymphony.com

Holiday theater: The dreary economy hasn’t put a damper on holiday-themed productions. There are still plenty of them to lift your spirits.

If you cherish “It’s a Wonderful Life,” Frank Capra’s cinematic heart-wrencher, you’ll likely appreciate Cygnet Theatre’s “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” (through December 27 at The Old Town Theatre). (619) 337-1525; www.cygnettheatre.com. Back for its 12th year is “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” the Old Globe hit that continues through December 27. (619) 234-5623; www.theoldglobe.org. Lamb’s Players Theatre offers two very different shows: “An American Christmas,” which transports you back to 1909 (performances are December 13-27 in the ballroom of the Hotel del Coronado) and “Festival of Christmas,” which has a new script that centers on a struggling recording studio (December 1-27 at the company’s Coronado theater). (619) 437-0600; www.lambsplayers.org.

And Common Ground Theatre’s “Oh Come All Ye Faithful - Black Nativity, The Musical” (December 4-13) doesn’t only feature leading San Diego gospel artists. Each performance also stars a minister from a local church. (619) 263-7911; www.commongroundtheatre.org

“A Christmas Carol”: What would Christmas be like without Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim? There’s no need to find out, thanks to local productions of Charles Dickens’ beloved classic. You’ll find it at North Coast Repertory Theatre from December 5-27. (858) 481-1055; www.northcoastrep.org. And a musical version continues through January 3 at Welk Resorts Theatre. (888) 802-7469; www.welhketressandiego.com

Holiday concerts: A variety of local organizations give the gift of music. The San Diego Symphony, for instance, provides the ever-festive “Holiday Pops.” This year’s guests include singer/pianist Michael Cavanaugh, the San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children’s Choir and Mariachi Champaña Nevin. Performances are December 16-20 at Copley Symphony Hall. (619) 235-0804; www.sandiegosymphony.com. If you like the sound of a tenor, why make do with just one? The Ten Tenors display their harmonious power December 8-13 in their holiday program at the Civic Theatre, care of Broadway/San Diego. (619) 570-1100; www.broadwaysd.com.


Beethoven’s Ninth: While not strictly holiday music, the oh-so-famous “Choral” Symphony has such an uplifting message about peace and universal harmony that it seems only fitting that the San Diego Symphony is presenting it at this time of year. Music director Jahja Ling
MetLife/TCG A-ha! Program: Think It, Do It

GRANT RECIPIENTS
The MetLife Foundation and Theatre Communications Group have announced the second round of recipients for the A-ha! Program: Think It, Do It. Five TCG member theatres were awarded grants totaling $150,000, to either research and develop new production ideas (“Think It”) or experiment and implement innovative concepts in the theatrical field (“Do It”). The 2009 A-ha! Do It recipient is Clubbed Thumb of New York City, which will partner with a larger theatre for a co-production that will be presented at Clubbed Thumb’s annual festival in June, and then in a longer run at the larger theatre. The A-ha! Think It recipients are: East West Players (Los Angeles), which will develop an artist talent agency and diversity advocacy prototype; Childsplay (Tempe, Ariz.), which will explore green practices in stagecraft; Book-It Repertory Theatre (Seattle), which will investigate the feasibility of a literacy-based theatre arts complex; and Salvage Vanguard Theater (Austin), which will test a business plan for a production element co-op for small to mid-size companies. To track the progress of these recipients visit the GRANTS section of TCG’s website.

NEW FROM TCG BOOKS
Enda Walsh’s unmistakably Irish, galloping gothic comedies about the use of theatre and oral traditions to warp family history—The Walworth Farce and The New Electric Ballroom—are now available in a single volume from the TCG Bookstore. In Variety, Walworth was described as “a theatrical experience that claws at the imagination for days afterwards,” and New York Times critic Charles Isherwood has opined that Walsh’s Ballroom “affirms his growing reputation as a contender to take his place in the long, distinguished line of great Irish playwrights.” To order your copy, visit the PUBLICATIONS section of the website.

FINDINGS: THE FISCAL HEALTH OF BAY AREA THEATRE
Are Bay Area theatres weathering the recession better than their counterparts elsewhere in the country? That’s one of the questions journalist Sam Hurwitt explores in an article commissioned by TCG as part of a San Francisco Bay Area theatre initiative, made possible through the support of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Hurwitt, a past American Theatre Bay Area Commissioning Fund grantee, has conducted interviews with local theatre leaders to supplement and interpret the findings of TCG’s Taking Your Fiscal Pulse—August 2009: A Report on the Fiscal Health of the San Francisco Bay Area Not-for-Profit Theatre Community report. The article will appear in Theatre Bay Area magazine’s December issue, and a link to its full text can be found in the TOOLS & RESEARCH section of TCG’s website.

FROM THIS ISSUE:
To Be Determined
Stuart Miller on Jeffrey Horowitz, the tenacious artistic director of New York’s Theatre for a New Audience
A Search for the Oldest Songs in the World
Editor-in-chief Jim O’Quinn on Poland’s Teatr ZAR

AMERICAN THEATRE ONLINE
On Stage/Theatre Profiles
Up-to-date schedules of TCG theatres from coast to coast.
PLUS: details about production venues; designers and choreographers; artistic leader statements; and general information about each theatre.
The cast of Dr. Seuss’s How The Grinch Stole Christmas!, directed by Jack O’Brien at the Old Globe in San Diego.
Here’s what’s playing this month at TCG theatres nationwide.

For the most up-to-date information about performance schedules, contact the theatre or visit Theatre Profiles online: www.tcg.org/profiles.

**ALASKA**


**ARIZONA**

Actors Theatre of Phoenix, (602) 252-8497, www.actorstheatrepfx.org

**A Christmas Carol**, adapt: Michael Grady, Matthew Wiener (also dir) from Dickens; lyrics and music: Alan Ruch. Dec 12-24.


**Onstage**

**Ain’t Misbehavin’**, lyrics and music: Thomas "Fats" Waller; dir: Kent Gash. Thru Jan 17.

Borderlands Theatre, Tucson, (520) 882-7406, www.borderlandstheater.org


Childsplay, Inc, Tempe, (480) 350-2822, www.childsplayaz.org

**Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!**, dir: David P. Saar. Thru Dec 27. On tour:

**Ferdinand the Bull**, dir: Andres Alcala. Thru Dec 18.


Southwest Shakespeare Company, Mesa, (480) 644-6500, www.swshakespeare.org


**ARKANSAS**


**CALIFORNIA**

A Noise Within, Glendale, (818) 240-0910, www.anoisewithin.org

The Tragedy of King Richard III, Shakespeare; dir: Geoff Elliott. Thru Dec 12.

Crime and Punishment, adapt: Marilyn Campbell, Curt Columbus from Dostoyevsky; dir: Craig Belknap. Thru Dec 17.

Noises Off, Michael Frayn; dir: Geoff Elliott. Thru Dec 19.


The Freddy Wyatt Christmas Spectacular, Stephen Van Dorn (also dir) Dec 2-13.


**Cinderella**, Dec 10-27.


**A Christmas Carol**, adapt: Carey Perloff, Paul Walsh from Dickens; music: Karl Lundeberg; dir: Domenique Lozano. Dec 4-27.


Cousin Bette, adapt: Jeffrey Hatcher; dir: Jeanie Hackett. Thru Dec 20.


B Street Theatre, Sacramento, (916) 443-5300, www.bstreettheatre.org


Holiday Show, Buck Busfield. Thru Jan 3.

Entertaining Mr. Sloan, Joe Orton. Thru Dec 12.

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The cast of Dr. Seuss’s How The Grinch Stole Christmas!, directed by Jack O’Brien at the Old Globe in San Diego.
Globe Gems
December is the month for theatre at The Old Globe. A December 7 black tie gala inaugurates the new Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at the Globe complex. This glamorous fundraiser will feature stars of Broadway’s South Pacific, Kelli O’Hara and Paulo Szot, singing their hearts out in the state-of-the-art arena that has replaced the Cassius Carter Centre Stage. Then, on December 12, a special holiday limited engagement of I Do! I Do! opens and plays through December 20. The super talented real-life couple Paige Davis and Patrick Page perform in this musical, which was originally a star vehicle on Broadway for Mary Martin and Robert Preston. Meanwhile, an open house highlighting the new White Theatre will be held December 12 from 9am-1pm. The theatre is housed within the larger, just completed Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Warning: the tour is impressive. And all the while, Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas continues to entrance theatregoers throughout the month. (619/23-GLOBE, www.theoldglobe.org)  GARENE G. DAVIES
WE WANT MORR: British singer and songwriter, Morrissey, is playing at The Copley Symphony Hall at 8 p.m. The Brit vocalist was formerly in the punk rock band The Nosebleeds in the late 70's, but eased into a jangle pop sound as a solo artist. Tickets to his show range from $49.50 to $99.50.

ROCK TO YOUR ROLL: Are you in dire need of some heavy metal beats? Catch some unique local rock bands that are sure to having your head banging at The Radio Room. The Braaiins, Whoa Hunx, Cowabunga Babes, and Xmas Island are performing at 8 p.m. so bring you’re eyeliner and perhaps your Advil and enjoy the show.

YOU’RE A MEAN ONE: America’s favorite mean green machine is here to star in the Old Globe’s, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” musical. Bring the kiddies for a fun family outing or go see it with friends. It has been showing since November 21 and the last day to catch it will be December 27.
Santa's List of San Diego's Holiday Plays

Posted by Jonathan Young

From family classics and spiritual festivals to dark comedies and risqué romps, there is something for everyone this season on the San Diego stage. The San Diego Entertainer presents a comprehensive list of holiday plays performing now through the end of the year. These are not all the plays being performed in San Diego — just the shows the feature Santa, Scrooge, the Grinch and all the other traditional cast of Christmas characters.

**Lamb's Players Theatre**

*An American Christmas*

For the past fifteen years, the Hotel del Coronado has teamed with San Diego’s Lamb’s Players Theatre to present one of the most unique yuletide events in the nation, *An American Christmas*, a remarkable three-hour performance that takes place in the hotel’s beautiful Grand Ballroom.

Dec. 13-27
Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Ave. (In Coronado)
Tickets: $115-$160
Box Office: (619) 437-0600, lambsplayers.org

**A Christmas Story**

*San Diego Junior Theatre*

Humorist Jean Shepherd reminisces about growing up in the Midwest during the 1940s with this tale of 9-year-old Ralphie Parker, who’s fixated with getting a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case to his mother and teacher, and even to Santa Claus himself, at a department store — but the responses are not what he wants to hear.

Dec. 4-20
La Jolla YMCA Firehouse Theatre, 7877 Herschel Ave. (In La Jolla)
Tickets: $11-$14
Box Office: (619) 239-8355, juniortheatre.com

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

*Old Globe Theatre*

America’s favorite holiday fable, back for its twelfth incredible year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that 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 Grinch is transformed into snow-covered Who-ville right down to the last can of Who-hash!

Now through Dec. 27
Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way (In Balboa Park)
Tickets: $39-$79
Box Office: (619) 23-GLOBE, theoldglobe.org
Festival of Christmas
Lamb’s Players Theatre

Lamb’s Players Festival of Christmas creates authentic holiday magic, and a different story every year. Penney Lane is a recording studio on the outskirts of town, nestled beneath the railroad tracks but soon they might be closed for good. Proprietors Chris and Soho have a scheme to keep the little studio alive – and their makeshift community of charming and eccentric friends and family rallies around them. It’s a “Christmas on the edge,” but no matter what happens, it will be filled with unforgettable music of the season.

Dec. 1-27
Lamb’s Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Ave. (In Coronado)
Tickets: $22-$58
Box Office: (619) 437-0600, lambplayers.org

Scripps Ranch Theatre

Holiday Memories

Based on two short stories by Truman Capote, “The Thanksgiving Visitor” and “A Christmas Memory,” his is a charming heartwarming remembrance of a young man and his family. A nostalgic holiday tale laced with lyricism, wit and gentle charm that is sure to impart a warm glow to family audiences.

Now through Dec. 12
Legler-Benboough Theatre, 10455 Pomerado Road (on the Alliant International University campus)
Tickets: $16-$20
Box Office: (858) 578-7728, scrippsranchtheatre.org

The Nutcracker

Tchaikovsky’s classic ballet about a young girl, Clara, who is given a Nutcracker for Christmas by her godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer. But this is no ordinary Nutcracker as Clara learns that very night. After a great battle with the Mouse King, the Nutcracker turns into a Prince. He takes Clara on a magic journey through the Land of the Snow to the Kingdom of the Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy honors the couple with entertainment from around the world.

San Diego Academy of Ballet
Dec. 4-5
California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Blvd. (in Escondido)
Tickets: $14-$36
Box Office: (800) 988-4253, artcenter.org

San Diego Civic Youth Ballet
Dec. 6-20
Casa del Prado Theatre (in Balboa Park)
Tickets: $10-$15
Box Office: (619) 233-2030, sdcyb.org

San Diego City Ballet
Dec. 11-20
Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway (In downtown)
Tickets: $29-$59
Box Office: (858) 272-8663, cityballet.org

California Ballet
Dec. 12-13
Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road (In Poway)
Dec. 19-22
San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 3rd Ave. (In Downtown)
Tickets: $25-$80
Box Office: (858) 560-5676, californiaballet.org

West Coast Ballet Theater
Dec. 18-19
California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Blvd. (in Escondido)
Tickets: $18-$39
Box Office: (800) 988-4253, artcenter.org or sandiegonutcracker.com
The Santaland Diaries

New Village Arts Theatre
Introducing a new holiday event for NVA: The Santaland Diaries! Written by the great American humorist David Sedaris, The Santaland Diaries follows one out of work actor who decides to become a Macy’s elf to pay the holiday bills.

Dec. 10-23
New Village Arts Theatre, 2787 State St. (In Carlsbad)
Tickets: $20
Box Office: (760) 433-3245, newvillagearts.org

The Seafarer

San Diego Repertory Theatre
This rousing drama recounts the story of four lifelong friends who get together on Christmas Eve and end up making a bet with the devil in disguise. Written by one of Ireland’s most celebrated young playwrights, Conor McPherson, The Seafarer transports audiences to a bungalow just north of Dublin, a magical part of the world where the natural and the supernatural live side by side with the hard-living working man.

Now through Dec. 13
Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza (In Downtown)
Tickets: $27-$77
Box Office: (619) 544-1000, sdrep.org

- Read the San Diego Entertainer’s interview with actor Armin Shimerman, performing in The Seafarer.

White Christmas

A movie screening, presented by Lyric Opera San Diego
One of the greatest Christmas musical classics is coming to the Birch North Park Theatre. Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye star as two song-and-dance men who team up after the war to see a charming New England inn through its holiday season. A veritable treasure of Irving Berlin classics including “Count Your Blessings Instead Of Sheep,” “Silent Night,” “Blue Skies,” and, of course, Bing Crosby’s immortal rendition of “White Christmas.”

Dec. 20, 2:30 and 7 p.m.
Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Ave. (In North Park)
Tickets: $7-$9
Box Office: (619) 239-8836, lyricoperasandiego.org
WHO'S MERRY NOW?

Reactions by the Holzer brothers — Dylan, 8; Danny, 20 months; and Hayden, 7 months — to having their photo taken with The Grinch during Balboa Park December Nights ran the gamut. Last night's festivities drew an estimated 100,000 people. K.C. Alfred / U-T
December / Diciembre 2009

Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday

1  2  3  4-5  6-7  8-13

8-13  9-10  11-20  12  13

13  14  16-20  17  18

14  16-20  19  20

19  20, 22

20  21  22  23  24

21  22  23

22  23  24  25

23  24  25

24  25

25  26

26  27  28

27  28  29  30

28  29  30

29  30

30  31

HAPPY 2010 FROM GENTE BIEN!
FELIZ 2010 DE GENTE BIEN!
The Da Vinci Experience
Through January 3
San Diego Air and Space Museum
Balboa Park
2001 Pan American Plaza, San Diego
Does it surprise you that Leonardo da Vinci remains one of the most fascinating people in history has ever known? We didn't think so. And it doesn't surprise the San Diego Air and Space Museum either, which is why it brings you The Da Vinci Experience. Get on over there, because the exhibit's in its final days. Check out how Da Vinci's conceptual designs for many technological wonders were centuries ahead of their time, including over sixty functional models, eleven of which are full-sized. You'll love absorbing the knowledge, and your kids will love the hands-on experience.
619-234-0291
sandiegoairandspace.org
Accessible

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Through December 27
The Old Globe Theatre
1363 Old Globe Wy., San Diego
America's favorite holiday tale, back for its 12th incredible year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that once again jumps right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the stage. Come take part in the fun as the theatre is transformed into snow-covered Whoville right down to the last can of Who-hash.
619-23-GLOBE (234-5523)
theglobe.org
Accessible

Holidays on Hornblower
Through New Year's Eve
Hornblower Cruises and Events
1066 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego
Get ready for the sights and sounds of the magnificent San Diego Bay on one of Hornblower's Holiday Cruises. From flowing champagne to delicious holiday buffets and beautiful scenery, this is a celebration that begins the moment you step on board.
619-725-8888
hornblowerholidays.com

The Ten Tenors
December 8 - 13
San Diego Civic Theatre
1100 Third Ave., San Diego
The internationally renowned Australian singing group The Ten Tenors returns to San Diego for the holidays, featuring songs from their new album Nostalgica as well as holiday classics. With an unparalleled palette and repertoire, they've taken their passion for music and powerful singing to such venues as London's Royal Albert Hall, the Sydney Opera House, The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, and Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow. The group's hijinx and famous Australian sense of humor set them apart from other groups and have garnered attention and adoration around the world.
619-570-1100
broadwaysd.com
Accessible
Have you ever seen Santa on a yacht or cringed at the first glimpse of The Grinch? Here in San Diego, the holidays are celebrated in distinctly Southern California-style parades, festivals, and performances. It's not ho-ho-hum around here... it's holly jolly time.

PARADES

San Diego Bay Parade of Lights
December 13 and 20
San Diego Bay glows as 80 holiday-themed vessels sail past the Embarcadero to Coronado for the 38th annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights. A fireworks show at 5:30pm on the waterfront kicks off this free viewing maritime parade. For premier judges' viewing, consider buffet and cocktails aboard the dockside ferry Berkeley at San Diego Maritime Museum. Museum event is $50 adults; $25 youth. Check out sdparadeoflights.org and sdmaritime.org or call 619-234-9153.

Ocean Beach Christmas Parade
December 5
The 30th annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade is a stand-out among local holiday parades for its sea-themed frivolity. Watch legendary favorites, for example, the OB Geriatrics and Gidget Patrol, perform theatrics with their surfboards along the parade route. It begins at 5:05pm "OB time." Visit oceanbeachsandiego.com.

CLASSICAL PERFORMANCES

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Now through December 27
The Tony Award-winning Old Globe in Balboa Park is home to the original production of this 12th annual musical set in Whoville. If you cringe at the wayward, yet tender-hearted Grinch with his furry green paws, you're not alone. Whimsical music and brilliant actors enchant audiences with the onstage adaptation of this Seuss classic. Tickets are $39 - 79 adults; $20 - 55 youth (3 - 17). Get more info at theoldglobe.org or 619-23-GLOBE.

The Nutcracker
December 12 - 13
(Powy Center for the Performing Arts)
December 19 - 22
(San Diego Civic Theatre)
Presented by California Ballet with live accompaniment by San Diego Symphony. It's Christmas Eve at Clara's house. What gift will her godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, bring? A cast of nearly 200 dancers, with some students as young as four, perform this classical fairy tale in two acts. The famous score by Tchaikovsky brings to life the dreams and desires of a pre-teen girl at Christmastime, appealing to the child in all. Tickets are $25 - 80. Get yours on californiaballet.org or by calling 858-560-5676.
FESTIVALS

Balboa Park December Nights
December 4 – 5
Enjoy the gaiety of carolers, choirs, and dance presentations in Balboa Park's free, holiday exposition. Taste delicious flavors from around the world in the House of Pacific Relations Cottages. Each night, the museums open their doors at no charge, giving San Diegans a preview at exhibits and a chance to purchase unique museum store gifts. Log on to balboapark.org/decembernights.

Blue Christmas in the Gaslamp Quarter
December 10
Kick it up a notch in the spirit of jazz, blues, rock and R&B in San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter. This free, evening musical showcase takes place inside 10 venues with street side complimentary shows. Let's give a hand, folks, to Lady Dottie & The Diamonds playing at the Hard Rock Café and to Eamon Carroll at The Field, among a dozen more scheduled bands. Click on gaslamp.org or call 619-233-5227.

HOLIDAY ENLIGHTENMENT

Garden of Lights at San Diego Botanic Garden
December 10 – 23 and 26 - 30
Savor hot mulled wine in the Poinsettia Garden, visits with Santa, and marshmallow roasting under the twinkling of more than 100,000 lights. The gardens are illuminated with the glow of a winter wonderland that sparkles with holiday nostalgia. Step back in time with a horse-drawn wagon ride and listen to live music, with nightly activities for all ages. $12 admission; $4 youth (3 - 12). Check out sdbgarden.org/lights or call 760-436-3036.

Holiday of Lights at Del Mar Fairgrounds
Nightly through January 3
Drive through Candy Cane Lane and see Elves at Play as part of 400 dazzling displays around the Del Mar Race Track. This spectacular light show and drive-through exhibit can also be experienced in a new Holiday Hayride. On select Fridays, wagons depart from the Paddock to the tune of carolers and tastes of roasted marshmallows before and after embarking. Hayride reservations recommended. $14/car and $10/per person for hayride. For more info, visit holidayoflights.com or call 858-755-1161.
CRITIC’S CHOICE


"Bonnie & Clyde" The Playhouse’s world-premiere musical is smartly crafted and shot through with wit, heart and romance. Laura Osnes and Stark Sands play the doomed ’30s outlaws with passion and plenty of chemistry. Frank Wildhorn’s score has its fits and starts, and the grisly ending somehow aligns with the work’s genuine and refreshingly understated pleasure. (Hebert) La Jolla Playhouse, 2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla-UTC. Through Dec. 20. 858-550-1010, lajollaplayhouse.org.


"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Newcomer Jeff Skowron fills out the green fur with a flourish in the title role of the long-running holiday musical. This version of the Seuss classic, retooled by director Benjamin Endsley Klein two seasons ago, retains all the show’s zip and wit, plus that certain dah-who-daraz. (Hebert) The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Through Dec. 27. 619-234-5623, theoldglobe.org.

"Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" — with newcomer Jeff Skowron in the title role — was retooled by director Benjamin Endsley Klein two seasons ago, but it still has all the original version’s zip and wit, plus that certain dah-who-daraz. At the Old Globe (1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park) through Dec. 27. (619) 234-5623 or theoldglobe.org. File photo
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America’s favorite fable, Dr. Seuss’s *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, is arriving at the Old Globe Theatre for the 12th year in a row. Get into the holiday spirit and grab a seat.

**Article by Fumiechi Simpson**

It’s that time of year and Christmas is back! Unless the Grinch stole it.

Christmas just wouldn’t be the same without presents, nor would it be the same or as fun without hearing the awesome tale of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. Instead of waiting for that vintage cartoon movie to appear on television like it does every year, try something new and travel to The Old Globe to watch the popular story come to life with your very own eyes.

It’s back for year number 12, yes, my fellow San Diegans. Balboa Park’s Old Globe Theatre is bringing back their rendition of Dr. Seuss’ musical *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. 
The History of The Grinch:

- The book How the Grinch Stole Christmas was published in 1957.
- The story is meant to criticize the commercialization of Christmas and satirize those who profit from exploiting the holiday.
- This animated film has been shown on television during the Christmas season since the 1960's.

Prepare to be entertained when the Grinch hits the stage on November 27 and doesn't leave until December 27. This unforgettable production is bringing back all your favorite tunes, such as 'This Time of Year,' 'It's the Toughest Shrub Crawl,' and that infamous card 'I'm Whoo Dooze!'

Even if you've never seen the film (like me), I'm pretty sure you'll be amazed once the curtain opens and this winter tale begins. I can guarantee watching this musical will get you into the Christmas spirit, so families, get your huddled up and purchase tickets to one of the best shows of the year!

Prices for adults range from $39-$59; children ages 3-17 cost $20-$59. Don't be surprised if your kids say they'd give up their favorite toy in exchange for tickets to watch this show... it's that great.

Not only can you get tickets to enjoy this fun musical, but you also have the opportunity to view it under the San Diego stars at the Globe Copley Plaza. If you buy tickets to an advanced showing on November 22, not only will you watch the show outdoors, but you will also be present for the official viewing of the 4th Annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The tree is designed by Grinch scenic designer John B. Beatty, so plan for it to be super-amazing. It's home will be smack-dab in the center of the Globe Plaza until the last viewing. Besides the tree lighting - and let's not forget the awesome musical - this one-night event will feature a special live performance by members of the Grinch cast and an unforgettable snowfall on the Globe Plaza. You won't find snow on this night anywhere in San Diego but here!

I'm sure you remember how great a story The Grinch is, let your friends in on it by paying their admission to watch the show. If you want to be really cool or score brownie points with someone like your boss, then purchase tickets to the Grinch Family Day. On December 20 from 10am-2pm, an event for all ages will take place once again at the Globe Copley Plaza. Spend your afternoon making holiday crafts, playing games and eating treats. It wouldn't be official fun without a live performance of Dr. Seuss How the Grinch Stole Christmas. This special event is worth every minute and every dollar, which is $74 for children and $100 for adults. All proceeds support the Globe's education and community programs for young people, so have the time of your life while supporting a great cause.

We all know the story, whether we've seen it on television or had it read to us as children, you've enjoyed the tale of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas. But watching on TV or reading it is nowhere near as much fun as memorable as having the production performed live right in front of you. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and grab tickets to one of the best Dr. Seuss musicals you'll ever see.

For ticket information, visit www.theaiglobe.org.
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
The Old Globe Theatre stages its annual Christmas show, in which the Green Meanie (played this year by Jeff Skowron) tries once again to hoodwink Whoville. Benjamin Endsley Klein directed.
OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-5623.
7PM THURSDAYS; 7PM FRIDAYS: 11AM, 2PM, AND 8PM SATURDAYS; 11 AM, 2PM, AND 5PM SUNDAYS; 7PM TUESDAYS; 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.
THEATER & FILM
"Fables, Friends and Fruitcakes!"

“I Do! I Do!” Patrick Page and Paige Davis star in this Tony Award-winning musical. The stars are married in real life, adding to the fun behind this tale about 50 years of marriage. Through Dec. 20 at The Old Globe’s new Sheryl and Harvey White Theater. $39-$85. (619) 23-GLOBE, www.TheOldGlobe.org.


“Bonnie & Clyde.” At the La Jolla Playhouse through Dec. 20, Mandell Weiss Theatre, 2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. (858) 550-1010, lajollaplayhouse.org.


Dr Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
The Old Globe Theatre stages its annual Christmas show, in which the Green Meanie (played this year by Jeff Skowron) tries once again to hoodwink Whoville. Benjamin Endslay Klein directed.
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

SUNDAY, DEC. 20

TEMECULA WINTERFEST — Old Town Temecula continues its holiday celebration with ice skating on Town Square, downtown lighting and holiday-themed entertainment. Stores stay open later Friday and Saturday nights; daily through Dec. 31; Old Town Temecula Front and Main streets; free.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — Santa Claus hosts a family-style breakfast at the Harbor House restaurant in Seaport Village. Program includes a full breakfast, photos with Santa, face-painting, balloon artists, children’s entertainment and goody bags; 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Seaport Village, Harbor Drive at Pacific Coast Highway, San Diego; $25; 619-235-4014, ext. 3.

GRINCH FAMILY DAY — Want to spend the day with the Grinch? The Old Globe is hosting a family program that includes crafts, games, treats, a visit with the Grinch and a ticket to a performance of the theater’s musical, “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas”; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego; $75, children; $100, adults ($100-$125, premium seating); 619-234-5623.
San Diego

Holiday Pops! 
Miércoles 18 el domingo 20
Concerto de la Sinfónica de San Diego, con el Mariachi Campana
Nevis, Copley Symphony Hall, 730 B St. 7:30 p.m. $20 a $85; 619.233.0804
o sandiegosymphony.org

La pastorela de los padres
Jueves 17 el domingo 20
Obra en inglés presentada por Teatro Música Mágica en el San Diego
Lyceum Theatre en Horton Plaza, $15, $10, $5 niños; lyceumevents.org.

Viva Christmas
Sábado 19
Show de Navidad con El Vez, conocido como el Elvis mexicano. The
Casbah, 2501 Kettner Blvd. 9 p.m. $20; 619.232.4355.

San Diego Parade of Lights
Domingo 20
Desfile de baños adornados con luces. Bahía de San Diego. 3:30 a 9
p.m. Gratis; sdparadeevents.org

Kwanza
Diciembre 27
La tradición afroamericana llega el World Beat Center, 2100 Park Blvd.,
en el Parque Balboa. 6 p.m. Gratis; 619.230.1100 o worldbeatcenter.org.

Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
Hasta el 27 de diciembre
La clásica obra de teatro se presenta en The Old Globe Theatre, Parque Balboa. Varios horarios. $20 a $79; theoldglobe.org.

Desfile de globos
Diciembre 30
Un desfile de globos gigantescos en el Port of San Diego Big Bay Balloon
Parade, sobre North Harbor Drive, en el centro. 10 a.m. Gratis; algunos
boletos especiales cuestan $20; 619.283.5808 o holidaybowl.com.

[Exhibiciones]

Muestra de nochebuenas
Hasta el 6 de enero
Docenas de nochebuenas adornan el jardín botánico del Parque
Balboa hasta el 7 de enero. Todos los días de 10 a.m. a 4 p.m. excepto

Hotel Del Coronado
Esta semana
Más de 100 mil luces adornan el hotel y hay un área para patinar sobre
hielo. Hasta el 3 de enero. En 1500 Orange Ave., Coronado. Horarios
varían. Ver las luces es gratis; otras actividades tienen diferentes
precios; 619.435.6611 o hoteldel.com.

Holiday of Lights
Hasta el 3 de enero
Paseo en auto por entre más de 350 figuras navideñas iluminadas en
los Terrenos de la Feria en Del Mar.
THE GRINCH

He's a mean one, that Mr. Grinch, and he'll be onstage for a few more days at The Old Globe in Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Performances are at 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. today and Sunday, and 2, 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday at the theater, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park in San Diego. Tickets start at $13 for children and cost up to $79 for adults. Information: (619) 234-5623 or theoldglobe.org.
Holiday shows spill over past the holidays

By James Hebert
THEATER CRITIC

It might be the last moment for joining the holiday mall scrum, but when it comes to Christmas, local theaters are more accommodating than the calendar.

Several holiday shows around the county continue their runs right past the big day — one, the Welk Resorts Theatre musical "A Christmas Carol," even includes a matinee performance on Christmas itself. (That show's run continues through Jan. 3.)

The Old Globe’s perennial hit "Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" runs through Sunday. So does Lamb's Players Theatre's music-infused "Festival of Christmas," along with the same company's "An American Christmas," a sumptuous dinner-and-performance event at the Hotel del Coronado.

Here are quick reviews of two other productions that'll still be hitting the boards well after Santa has packed it in for the Pole.

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