



## **DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS**



**PRESS HIGHLIGHTS**



# REVIEWS



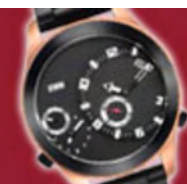
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## THEATER REVIEW: What's not to love about "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!"

JEAN LOWERISON - SDGLN THEATER CRITIC  
December 3rd, 2010

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That snarly, gnarly mossy green Grinch is back in town, trying to ruin everybody's holiday season by eliminating it altogether.

The Old Globe's perennial favorite, "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!" plays on the main stage through Dec. 26.

This marks the 13th year for the green monster, still packing 'em in and sending 'em out with moist eyes. Originally conceived and directed by the redoubtable Jack O'Brien, this version is helmed by local wizard James Vasquez.

You know the story: all the Whos down in Whoville are getting ready for the holidays and the feast of roast beast, while up on his lonely hill above Whoville the Grinch (Jeff Skowron) storms and seethes, trying to figure out how to stop all that good cheer and merrymaking.

He finally comes up with a nefarious plan: he'll use his poor dog Max (Logan Lipton) as a reindeer to transport the fake Santa Grinch to Whoville to steal all the presents. Surely that will end the merriment.

But of course, the Grinch doesn't count on the secret weapons of the littlest Who, Cindy-Lou (Margaret Corbin) – kindness and the love of a child – which are not dependent on gifts or things for their power.

It's a charming story, wonderfully told and excellently executed, bringing together many of the usual suspects – among them Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Melinda Gilb and Steve Gunderson (Mama and Papa Who). Newcomer Phil Johnson fits right in as Grandpa Who.

Mel Marvin's delightful music (the Grinch vamping the vaudeville-inspired "One Of A Kind" is worth the price of admission), Robert Morgan's imaginative costume designs, John Lee Beatty's terrific choreography (augmented by Bob Richard's contributions) and a large and talented cast of children, teens and adults combine to make this a very special seasonal treat.

### The details

Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! plays through Dec. 26 at the Old Globe Theatre.

Tuesday through Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m.

[ENLARGE](#)

Photo credit: Michael Lamont

**Remy Margaret Corbin as Cindy-Lou Who  
and Jeff Skowron as The Grinch.**



## Curtain Calls

By Charlene Baldridge

Week ending December 2

It's all Brenda this week, because nothing Charlene saw can be pounded into a format, not the Globe's annual *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, New Village Arts' brief workshop run of *A Christmas Carol*, and certainly not Eveoke Dance Theatre's *Las Mariposas*.

### The Circle, with leaps already

Friday, Nov. 26, the day after Thanksgiving, Charlene sent me to see the Old Globe's 13th annual *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*<sup>TM</sup>

She may have missed a year somewhere in those 13, but even so, that's a lot of Cindy Lous, Old Maxes, Young Maxes and hairy green guys.

On the way to the Prado, I saw a man running through the grass alongside Balboa Park Drive. As I passed, he performed a series of gazelle-like leaps. Must have been a dancer, jumping for the sheer joy of it, or maybe paying penance for his Thanksgiving feast. However, no turkey ever caused such height, so far as I know. I had no trouble parking outside the SD Museum of Art, even though there was some kind of party going on in the courtyard outside the Prado restaurant. After a chicken quesadilla in the lounge, I strolled over to the Globe. In anticipation of this weekend's December Nights, park employees in cherry pickers were putting up holiday lights in the museum parking lot.

When I got to the Globe, here was this blazing big Christmas tree with Who children surrounding it. It was fun to sit on the plaza nursing a cappuccino and watching parents pose their kids next to the wooden Whoville kids. All children, especially the little girls I observed, love to walk circles around the fountain at the Prado and the immense Old Globe tree. The boys just want to wrestle.

*Grinch* is directed by **James Vasquez** this year; I noted subtleties of his devising here and there. Though the show based on Dr. Seuss' book was written for children by **Timothy Mason** (book and lyrics) and **Mel Marvin** (music), there are many things to amuse the adults as well. I forget them from year to year and am surprised by something no matter how many times I attend. This year's delight occurred just as Cindy Lou Who (**Remy Margaret Corbin**) was about to beguile **Jeff Skowron**'s Grinch with "Santa for a Day," and he muttered an aside, "Ohhh. It's a ballad," as if knowing in advance that she would unfreeze his niggardly heart and cause it to grow three sizes before the evening is out.

Skowron's Grinch seems to have added dimension this year, and I so enjoyed the third return of **Logan Lipton** as Young Max. Lipton and Skowron's vaudevillian "One of a Kind" is a highlight of the show. No matter who performs Old Max it is **Mitchell Edmonds'** interpretation that I remember most vividly, though I wouldn't sentence anyone to playing inside that dog suit forever. I do enjoy **Martin Van Treuren**'s Old Max. Add to these principals the Who parents and grandparents -- **Steve Gunderson**, **Melinda Gilb**, **Phil Johnson** and **Eileen Bowman** - and you have a marvelously musical and affecting group of thespians who possess heart. Familiar among the adults of Whoville are **Courtney Corey**, **Randall Dodge**, **Kürt Norby** and **Anise Ritchie**. New to the adult ensemble this season are **Kyle J. Jackson** and San Diego native/Broadway veteran **Karyn Overstreet**, who has returned to San Diego and teaches voice here.

Shea Starrs Siben as Cindy-Lou Who and Jeff Skowron as The Grinch  
Photo Michael Lamont

Musical director **Ron Colvard** (his associate conductor and keyboardist is **Steven Gray**) keeps the Who-principals and citizens in musical order. At his command is the Who-chestra, a splendid eight member band represented by American Federation of Musicians of the US and Canada. Original Globe designers are **John Lee Beatty** (scenic), **Robert Morgan** (costumes), **Pat Collins** (lighting) and **Paul Peterson** (sound).

The Who children are arranged in teams that alternate performances. When Old Max encourages audience participation in "This Time of Year" it's fun to hear kids from the other team singing full voice among us. In fact, half the fun of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* is watching its effect on young audience members, who have no compunction about piping up with audible responses and questions for mommy. Maybe their wonder is what causes me to hear anew each time and to be filled with Dr. Seuss' and original director Jack O'Brien's intent: wonder at the amazing, incredible circle of life and the indestructibility of Christmas, even though just outside the door it goes by another name.





# TEMECULA VALLEY NEWS

December 10, 2010

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## Get in the Christmas spirit with 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' at The Old Globe Theater in San Diego

**Andrea Verdin**

Staff writer

With the recent drop in temperature, it's apparent that Christmas is just around the corner, but if you're as busy as I am, it can be hard to get yourself into the holiday spirit. Luckily for those Grinches out there, attending the 13th annual Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" is a perfect way to be groomed with festive cheer.

San Diego's Old Globe Theater is beautifully decorated, with bright lights and a gorgeous tree in the center of the plaza. Wreaths and festive décor outside of the theater make you giddy with anticipation as you wait for the opportunity to see what is in store during the play.

The annual holiday musical, directed by James Vasquez, with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, is the recreation of the classic Dr. Seuss book. Having grown up on the book and cartoon version of the film, I am excited to see the live action recreation of one of my favorite holiday traditions.

Children of all ages pack the theater, and upon hearing the first few notes of the opening number, they can't help but get excited as they see the beautiful theater become

transformed into Whoville, bright and merry for the holidays.

Not an inch of the theater is left unused, as Whos dance and sing about the steps and aisles of the theater. Still, no one gets bigger cheers and reactions than the Grinch (played for the second year by Jeff Skowron), who not only snarls, growls and scowls at the Whos and his dog, Max, but also makes remarks and snorts at the audience if he doesn't get his way (audience members are warned: if a phone rings during the show, the Grinch will more than likely steal the phone).

Beyond the beautiful set, the cast of "Grinch" inspires the families in the audience to sing along to some of the most popular songs from the show, such as "Santa for a Day," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome, Christmas (Fah Who Doraze)." There is even a sing-along section of the play that everyone can participate in, and since it is part of one of the most popular songs, chances are, you will be belting out the tune with the rest of the crowd.

However, just because the show is based on a children's book does not mean that there's not moments for the slightly cynical, more Grinch-like individuals in the audience to appreciate as well.

Skowron does an amazing job of playing a cold-hearted, manipulative Grinch, who may have more than just one reason for being as angry and hateful as he appears. There are several moments that steal the show, and you can't help but laugh and cheer on the Grinch's selfish and silly antics.

The show isn't very long, which is perfect for antsy, younger audience members who might not be able to sit still long enough otherwise. As a treat, you may consider grabbing hot chocolate and treats from the concession stand on the way out of the show.

It's easy to see why this show has become a popular tradition for families across the county. If you have yet to attend a show, make it a part of your holiday wish list. You won't regret it.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" will run at the Old Globe Theater through December 26. Ticket prices are \$39 to \$77 for adults, \$20 to \$57 for children and can be ordered by calling (619) 23-GLOBE or visiting [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org). The theater is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. Free parking is available throughout the park.

To comment on this review online, go to [www.mvvalleynews.com](http://www.mvvalleynews.com).



*Jeff Skowron plays the Grinch in Dr. Seuss "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" showing at The Old Globe through Dec. 26.* Craig Schwartz photo



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Craig Schwartz photos

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To comment on this review online, go to [www.thevillagenews.com](http://www.thevillagenews.com).





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Andrea Verdin  
Staff Writer

Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Issue 49, Volume 14.

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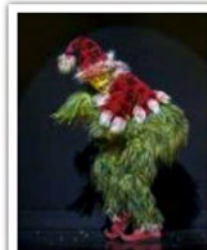
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Jeff Skowron as *The Grinch* in Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, at The Old Globe, Nov. 21 - Dec. 27, 2009. Photo by Craig Schwartz.



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# SAN DIEGO UPTOWN NEWS

December 10, 2010

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## THEATRE P. 18



San Diego's Grinch isn't  
such a 'mean one.'



**"DR. SEUSS'  
HOW THE GRINCH  
STOLE  
CHRISTMAS"**

**When:** Through Dec. 26  
**Where:** Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park  
**Tickets:** \$39-\$77 adults, \$20-\$57 children  
**Info:** (619) 23-GLOBE  
**Web:** theoldglobe.org

**By Patricia Morris Buckley**  
SDUN Theatre Critic

This year, the Grinch at the Old Globe is a kinder, gentler Grinch. Perhaps it's because this is actor Jeff Skowron's second year playing the scene-chomping part or that last year's too-scary version didn't play well with younger Whos in the audience. Whatever the reason, this funny and toned-down Grinch is a romping cheerful, candy-cane-eating good time.

Now an honored holiday tradition after 13 years, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is a musical staging of the 1966 animated cartoon (not the miserable 2000 live film with Jim Carrey).



This years Old Globe production of "Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas" features Jeff Skowron (right) as the Grinch and Logan Lipton (left) as Max the dog. (Courtesy Michael Lamont)

It features two of the songs from the TV version, "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" (in an audience participation moment that's one of the show's highlights) and "Welcome, Christmas (Fah Who Doraze)."

The rest of the music was written by Timothy Mason and

Mel Marvin, although none of it is as memorable as the 1966 songs. The show runs a kid-friendly 90 minutes (with no intermission), which is 60 minutes longer than the original. New songs and dance scenes fill up some of that time, but beefing up the script itself are two different versions of Max the

dog sharing the stage.

The older Max tells us the story of how he's leaving Whoville (he never really says why or where he's going) and remembers his first Christmas as the green-tinted Grinch's pet. While Martin

**see Grinch, page 24**

**FROM PAGE 19  
GRINCH**

Van Treuren is wonderful as the older pooch, it's Logan Lipton's charm, enthusiasm and doggy-like mannerisms that are the heart of this show. This is Lipton's third year in the role and already his performance is aged to perfection.

One delightful moment is when the two sing a duet, "This Time of Year," and harmonize with canine cuteness.

To make the story flow as the Grinch tries to steal Christmas from the ever-upbeat Whos, there are a few theatrical tricks employed. Puppets sometimes play characters seen from a distance and a wonderful scene of the Grinch and Max riding over the mountains gets a little stage magic as well.

Many familiar faces are back in the Whoville cast, including San Diego favorites Steve Gunderson, Melinda Gilb and Eileen Bowman. Sharing the role of cuteness-personified as Cindy-Lou Who are newcomer Remy Margaret Corbin and veteran Shea Starrs Siben. First grader Corbin tackled the part opening night and while Siben (who played the part opening night last year) has a stronger voice, Corbin is beyond charming and acts the stuffing out of this non-turkey of a role.

As mentioned before, Skowron's Grinch has a lot more humor this year. That doesn't mean that the Grinch has lost his bite, oh no. But we also giggle with him here and there, which gives the show much more holiday spirit.

Director James Vasquez, in recreating Jack O'Brien's original staging, imbues the whole show with a rousing Christmas carol soul. Throw in snow in several scenes and you have a holly, jolly good time that's worth revisiting year after year. ♦



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## Theatre Review: 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'

Posted by [admin](#) on 12/13/10 • Categorized as [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Theater](#)

By Patricia Morris Buckley | SDUN Theatre Critic



This years Old Globe production of "Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas" features Jeff Skowron (right) as the Grinch and Logan Lipton (left) as Max the dog. (Courtesy Michael Lamont)



Now an honored holiday tradition after 13 years, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is a musical staging of the 1966 animated cartoon (not the miserable 2000 live film with Jim Carrey). It features two of the songs from the TV version, "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" (in an audience participation moment that's one of the show's highlights) and "Welcome, Christmas (Fah Who Doraze)."

The rest of the music was written by Timothy Mason and Mel Marvin, although none of it is as memorable as the 1966 songs. The show runs a kid-friendly 90 minutes (with no intermission), which is 60 minutes longer than the original. New songs and dance scenes fill up some of that time, but beefing up the script itself are two different versions of Max the dog sharing the stage.

The older Max tells us the story of how he's leaving Whoville (he never really says why or where he's going) and remembers his first Christmas as the green-tinged Grinch's pet. While Martin Van Treuren is wonderful as the older pooch, it's Logan Lipton's charm, enthusiasm and doggy-like mannerisms that are the heart of this show. This is Lipton's third year in the role and already his performance is aged to perfection.

One delightful moment is when the two sing a duet, "This Time of Year," and harmonize with canine cuteness.

To make the story flow as the Grinch tries to steal Christmas from the ever-upbeat Whos, there are a few theatrical tricks employed. Puppets sometimes play characters seen from a distance and a wonderful scene of the Grinch and Max riding over the mountains gets a little stage magic as well.

Many familiar faces are back in the Whoville cast, including San Diego favorites Steve Gunderson, Melinda Gilb and Eileen Bowman. Sharing the role of cuteness-personified as Cindy-Lou Who are newcomer Remy Margaret Corbin and veteran Shea Starrs Siben. First grader Corbin tackled the part opening night and while Siben (who played the part opening night last year) has a stronger voice, Corbin is beyond charming and acts the stuffing out of this non-turkey of a role.

As mentioned before, Skowron's Grinch has a lot more humor this year. That doesn't mean that the Grinch has lost his bite, oh no. But we also giggle with him here and there, which gives the show much more holiday spirit.

Director James Vasquez, in recreating Jack O'Brien's original staging, imbues the whole show with a rousing Christmas carol soul. Throw in snow in several scenes and you have a holly, jolly good time that's worth revisiting year after year.

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# FEATURES



## Dastardly data

**5,150**

Pounds of dry ice used during the show's run

**357**

Number of lights in the show, with firepower equivalent to 3,421 60-watt light bulbs (plus two follow spots)

**250**

Number of props

**1,500**

Pounds the heaviest set piece weighs ("The Cave")

**2**

Number of months it took to design and build the show's neoprene Christmas trees

**2**

Number of former Grinches now appearing in the Globe's other holiday show, "Plaid Tidings" (David Brannen and Leo Daignault)

**1**

Number of former Grinches about to appear as a completely different green villain on Broadway (Patrick Page, the Globe associate artist who will star as the Green Goblin in "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark")

**9**

Number of members in the Globe's "Grinch" orchestra

**0**

Number of those musicians who play the pantooka (one of the instruments that Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel wrote into the original book)



The Grinch (Jeff Skowron) tries to sneak past the sleeping Who children. PEGGY PEATTIE • U-T

## 'The Grinch' by the numbers

As the green villain returns the Old Globe, we look behind the curtains of the musical

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

The Grinch's days are numbered. They number 4,384, to be exact.

That's how many times the sun has risen since the dark-hearted, green-skinned Grinch first skulked onto the stage at the Old Globe Theatre on Nov. 17, 1998.

Not that the Mean One's days are numbered in the metaphorical sense. In fact, as he readies for a lucky 13th season of making Christmas miserable for the hapless Whos, the gift-hoarding scourge's icy grip on the holidays seems

as secure as ever.

This year, the Globe's ever-popular holiday franchise gets a new director in local pro James Vasquez, a longtime performer and dance captain in the show who takes over from Benjamin Endsley Klein.

Jeff Skowron returns in the musical's title role, and the cast includes plenty of other "Grinch" veterans (and local favorites), including Randall Dodge, Courtney Corey, Melinda Gilb, Steve Gunderson, Phil Johnson and Kurt Norby.

In all, the show boasts 14 Equity actors, 20 child

performers (divided into two alternating groups) and uncountable attempts to translate the phrase *dah who doraze* (from the Whos' catchy Christmas tune). But still just one fake antler for the put-upon dog, Max.

jim.hebert@uniontrib.com • (619) 293-2040 • Twitter @jimhebert

### ONLINE

U-T theater critic James Hebert covers the drama, comedy and backstage buzz of San Diego's theater scene online at [uniontrib.com/theater/](http://uniontrib.com/theater/). You can follow him on Twitter, @jimhebert, or e-mail him at [jim.hebert@uniontrib.com](mailto:jim.hebert@uniontrib.com).

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

**When:** Previews begin Saturday. Opens Nov. 26. Schedule: Tuesdays-Fridays, 7 p.m.; Saturdays-Sundays, 11 a.m. and 2 and 5 p.m., with some exceptions (check with theater for specific dates). Through Dec. 26.

**Where:** Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park.

**Tickets:** \$39-77 adults, \$20-57 children.

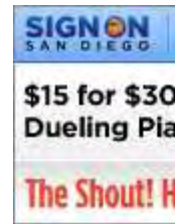
**Phone:** (610) 234-5623

**Online:** [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org)





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## "The Grinch," by the digits

BY JAMES HEBERT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2010 AT 1:44 P.M.

The Grinch's days are numbered.  
They number 4,384, to be exact.

That's how many times (as of Thursday) the sun has risen since the dark-hearted, green-skinned Grinch first skulked onto the stage at the Old Globe Theatre on Nov. 17, 1998.

Not that the Mean One's days are numbered in the metaphorical sense. In fact, as he readies for a lucky 13th season of making

Christmas miserable for the hapless Whos, the gift-hoarding scourge's icy grip on the holidays seems as secure as ever.

This year, the Globe's popular holiday franchise gets a new director in local pro James Vasquez, a longtime performer and dance captain in the show who officially takes over from Benjamin Endsley Klein.

Jeff Skowron returns in the musical's title role, and the cast includes plenty of other "Grinch" veterans (and local favorites), including Randall Dodge, Courtney Corey, Melinda Gilb, Steve Gunderson, Phil Johnson and Kürt Norby.

In all, the show boasts 14 Equity actors, 20 child performers (divided into two alternating groups) and uncountable attempts to translate the phrase *dah who doraze* (from the Whos' catchy tune "Welcome Christmas"). But still just one fake antler for the put-upon dog, Max.

Here's a look at some other numbers behind the Globe staging of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

- Pounds of dry ice used during the show's run: 5,150
- Number of lights in the show: 357 (plus two follow spots), with firepower equivalent to 3,421 60-watt light bulbs.
- Number of props: 250
- Weight of heaviest set piece ("The Cave," made of polyurethane foam over a steel armature): 1,500 pounds
- Length of time it took to design and build the show's neoprene Christmas trees, in months: Two



/ CRAIG SCHWARTZ

Jeff Skowron gets his green on at the Globe.



- Number of former Grinches now appearing in the Globe's other holiday show, "Plaid Tidings": Two (David Brannen and Leo Daignault).
- Number of former Grinches about to appear as a completely different green villain on Broadway: One (Patrick Page, the Globe associate artist who will star as the Green Goblin in "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark").
- Size of the Globe's "Grinch" orchestra: Nine members.
- Number of those musicians who play the pantooka (a fanciful instrument that Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel wrote into the original book): Zero.

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## CULTURE MONSTER



CRAIG SCHWARTZ

**THE GRINCH:** Jeff Skowron relishes his role in the Old Globe's musical version of the Dr. Seuss Christmas classic. **CALENDAR, D7**





CRAIG SCHWARTZ

## **To be every inch the Grinch**

Stage actor Jeff Skowron's approach to the role is discussed on Culture Monster, a Calendar theme page packed with features. **D7**

# Green meanie

Jeff Skowron takes a sinister approach to the green holiday thief audiences love to hate.

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KAREN WADA

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It isn't easy being green — especially when you're playing that shaggy, sneering holiday antihero, the Grinch.

"This is one exhausting role," says Jeff Skowron, who stars in "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. "But it's a lot of fun."

The musical, a 13-year tradition at the Globe, is based on the 1957 children's story about the conniving creature who tries to keep Christmas from coming to Whoville by swiping the town's presents, food and decorations. The Whos join hands and celebrate anyway, teaching the selfish thief the season's true meaning.

To be a good bad guy Skowron must sing, prance, vamp and slither down the side of the proscenium ("at first that was kind of terrifying") during each 90-minute show. The 34-year-old actor, who just began his second winter as the Globe's Grinch, gives up to three performances a day ("down from four last year") in a run that ends Dec. 26.

Skowron often arrives at the theater at 9:30 in the morning and heads home at 10 at night. He needs to leave plenty of time before the first curtain to put on his costume — which resembles a spiky-haired yeti — and makeup that transforms his face into a semi-feline scowl. As the day flies by, he says, "I'm dripping with sweat and everything smears and is dried on, so I have to go downstairs and start completely over before the next show."

Another challenge, he says, is competing with audiences' memories of Grinches past, notably ones from the story written by Seuss (a.k.a. Theodor Geisel), the oft-

repeated 1966 animated television special and the 2000 Jim Carrey movie.

The theatrical version, which has music by Mel Marvin and lyrics and book by Timothy Mason, was commissioned by the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, where it first appeared in 1994. Globe Artistic Director Emeritus Jack O'Brien conceived and originally directed the San Diego production, which premiered in 1998. Over the years, the score gained two of the TV special's songs, which have music by Albert Hague and lyrics by Seuss. "Doing this musical in San Diego is really special," says Skowron. "It's such an institution here. People who came as children now are coming with their own children."

The Grinch usually is portrayed as a villainous curmudgeon who brings to mind another holiday stage favorite, Ebenezer Scrooge. Skowron takes a lighter approach. "Some people say, 'Your Grinch isn't scary. It's funny.' Well, I always thought of him as brattier rather than sinister."

Even so, in the current production — directed by James Vasquez — he is trying to be "a bit more sinister, just to make it more interesting." Keeping a character, as well as a show, fresh is a constant concern for holiday performers. "We're lucky because we've got lots of kids involved," says Skowron, "so things will never be boring."

Skowron enjoys performing for young audiences — although he admits he's not quite sure what to expect this year when the Globe opens its 11 a.m. shows to the under-3 crowd. "I really love the student matinees," he says. "You feel like you're doing some kind of British pantomime. They yell out. They scream. They shout back. Half the time it fits right in because I'm yelling at them, too, telling them how much I hate them!"

He laughs a Grinch-like laugh. "It's the perfect way to celebrate Christmas."

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CRAIG SCHWARTZ

**NIGHT CRAWLER:** Jeff Skowron stars in "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" at Old Globe.

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**IN THE NEWS:** 'DANCING WITH THE STARS' | KANYE WEST | OPRAH'S FAVORITE THINGS | 'BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER'



## Star of Old Globe Theatre's 'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' has a good time being bad

Jeff Skowron takes a sinister approach to the green holiday thief audiences love to hate.



Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in the 2009 production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" at The Old Globe. (Craig Schwartz)

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By Karen Wada, Special to the Los Angeles Times

November 24, 2010

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"Grinch" ran on Broadway during the 2006 and 2007 holiday seasons. Skowron — whose other New York credits include "The Lion King" and "Enron" — was in the ensemble the first year; in the second, he also was the understudy for Patrick Page, who played the title role.

"Doing this musical in San Diego is really special," says Skowron. "It's such an institution here. People who came as children now are coming with their own children."

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scary. It's funny.' Well, I always thought of him as brattier rather than sinister."

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Even so, in the current production — which is directed by James Vasquez — he is trying to be "a bit more sinister, just to make it more interesting."

Keeping a character, as well as a show, fresh is a constant concern for holiday performers. "We're lucky because we've got lots of kids involved," says Skowron, "so things will never be boring."

He happily defies the traditional admonition warning actors against sharing the spotlight with children, especially the adorable actresses inevitably cast as the little Who named Cindy-Lou. (Among past San Diego Cindy-Lou Whos: Vanessa Hudgens in 1998.)







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By Mike Boehm, Los Angeles Times

'Kitty Litter' opened Saturday. The graffiti artist known as Atlas had been sentenced to 90 days for felony vandalism.

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By Christopher Knight

Since the works accurately depict the designs of actual pieces of military cloth that the artist bought at an Army-Navy surplus store, the silk-screens are simultaneously figurative and abstract.

## Art review: Doug Aitken at Regen Projects

By Christopher Knight

"House," an elaborate new video by Doug Aitken, is a quietly moving visual poem on soulful subjects that include love, mortality and the unexpected beauty harbored within the inevitability of change.

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**11/26/2010, 8:46 a.m.**

Feline-friendly graffiti felon is out of the clink, brings his images to gallery show

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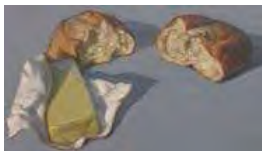
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**Star of Old Globe Theatre's 'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' has a good time being bad**

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**Craft and Folk Art Museum director stepping down in December**

By David Ng

Maryna Hrushetska has served as the museum's director for nearly six years.



## Young actors thrilled to be part of Old Globe's 'Grinch'

BY DIANA SAENGER  
Contributor

With its delightful characters, holiday drama, spirited dancing and singing, the annual arrival of The Globe's "Dr. Seuss' Stole Christmas!" is a grand time for everyone. This year, the show runs Nov. 20–Dec. 26 in The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park.

Playing the Grinch that kids love to fear, Jeff Skowron ("The Lion King," "Beauty and the Beast," "High Soci-



Emma Ford



Liam Brandt

ety," "The Boy From Oz" and more) returns for his second year as the grouchy green curmudgeon.

The cast always includes an ensemble of children, some returning to the show, others eager to make their debut.

The local kids in this year's cast include Emma Ford, alternating nights with Skylar Starrs Siben as Annie Who, and Liam James Brandt, part of the Little Who ensemble.

Ford, a Carmel Valley fifth grader, has performed on stage since age 7. "I've tried out twice before, and I've always loved this show so I'm really excited for this experience at The Old Globe," Ford said.

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By **Diana Saenger**

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# SOLANA BEACH SUN

November 18, 2010

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OLD GLOBE'S  
'GRINCH'  
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November 18, 2010



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# DEL MAR TIMES

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# CARMEL VALLEY NEWS

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OLD GLOBE'S  
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## A Busy Fall Season for San Diego Entertainment

by Eileen Sondak | [November 2010](#), [Popular Stories from SDJJ](#) | [Post your comment »](#)



With Thanksgiving on the horizon, arts aficionados have much to be thankful for. The San Diego Symphony is making beautiful music at its downtown home. The La Jolla Playhouse is offering the Pulitzer Prize-winning play “Ruined” for a month-long run. Lyric Opera San Diego is ready to delight opera buffs with a production of “The Barber of Seville,” and the irresistibly retro radio play, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” will show up both in Old Town and at the Welk this month. And don’t forget the Globe’s annual Dr. Seuss show, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” — not to mention the grab bag of dance concerts that will pop up around town to add to the smorgasbord of November entertainment events.

The San Diego Symphony is in full swing this month, starting on the afternoon of Nov. 1 with a Jacobs’ Masterworks concert. The program will include Mozart’s Requiem Mass in D minor. The evening performance will feature “Dia de los Muertos” with mariachi artist Jeff Nevin on the podium. “Ohlsson Plays Chopin” will be Nov. 5-7, with Maestro Ling conducting. Garrick Ohlsson will join organist Robert Pimpton for this concert, which includes two works by Chopin and Saint-Saens’ Symphony No. 3 for Organ.

Winter Pops is coming our way Nov. 6-7, with Julie Budd offering her “Barbra Streisand Song Book.” Expect to hear



Streisand classics, such as “People” and “The Way We Were” in this one-night performance, conducted by Marvin Hamlisch. There’s another Family Festival on tap Nov. 8. Bring the kiddies to enjoy “Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant.” Philip Mann will conduct the orchestra for this exciting world premiere.

The music continues Nov. 13-15, with Maestro Jahja Ling conducting. The concert will star pianist Jean-Philippe Collard performing Saint-Saens’ Piano Concerto No. 4. A chamber music recital is planned for Nov. 17 at Qualcomm Hall. The San Diego Symphony String Quartet will do the honors. The evening, dubbed “Pines of Rome” is slated for Nov. 19-21. This concert will include pieces by Smetana, Torke and Rossini, as well as Respighi’s “Pines of Rome.” Nov. 20-22, Maestro Ling conducts a program of works by Barber and Mahler. Karen Gomyo is guest artist for Barber’s Violin Concerto.

It’s not too early to make plans for the Symphony’s Centennial Gala with Yo-Yo Ma, heading to the Balboa Theatre Dec. 3. The evening will include a cocktail reception, dinner and a post-concert party at the US Grant. How divine!

La Jolla Music Society’s season continues Nov. 14 with pianist Gleb Ivanov performing at the Neurosciences Institute.

The Old Globe takes a hiatus this time of year, except for the return of its popular holiday delight, Dr. Seuss’ “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” This kid-favorite is in its 13<sup>th</sup> year on the Globe’s Main Stage, and the show seems to get better every year. Who can resist this wonderful and whimsical production of the children’s classic set in a snow-covered Whoville. The decorations are not just limited to the stage area during “Grinch” season — they’re placed around the outside courtyard. The musical runs Nov. 20-Dec. 26, which should give local families plenty of time to get in on the fun.

The Globe’s Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre is featuring an educational experience for students Nov. 7-14. Fortunately, the show (a joint venture between The Old Globe and the University of San Diego) is also open to the public. This year’s production is Shakespeare’s “The Winter’s Tale,” and the talented graduate students in the cast are all first rate.

As part of the Globe’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the troupe has installed a four-part exhibition of photos depicting the history, artists and lineage of the Old Globe. The photographic exhibition is included in the Globe’s Behind-the-Scenes tour. If you haven’t seen the photos yet, you can check out the exhibit in the lobby of the Old Globe Theatre the next time you come.

The La Jolla Music Society is presenting pianist Gleb Ivanov at the Neurosciences Institute Nov. 14 as part of its Discovery Series. Ivanov, winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, will perform an all-Chopin concert, including Polonaise in A-flat Major, “Heroic.”

The La Jolla Playhouse has the winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama on the boards this month. Starting Nov. 16, “Ruined” will take audiences on a theatrical voyage to the Congo. The play takes place during the civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and focuses on a woman who keeps the war at bay with humor and sheer force of will. The show is a co-production with the Huntington Theatre Company and Berkeley Repertory Theatre and will be directed by Liesl Tommy. You’ll have until Dec. 19 to see “Ruined” at the Mandell Weiss Theatre.

Lyric Opera San Diego will return to the world of opera Nov. 12 with Rossini’s “The Barber of Seville.” The old chestnut — one of the most popular comic operas of all time — will remain at Lyric’s North Park Theatre through Nov. 21. Emily Douglass will star as Rosina. You may remember Douglass from her recent performance as the Daughter of the Regiment.

Cygnnet Theatre is down to the wire with its successful run of “The Norman Conquests.” The ambitious theatrical production closes at the Old Town Theatre Nov. 2. Following the trilogy (Nov. 26), Cygnnet will present its version of “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play.” Cygnnet has been producing the popular work for the past five years. Sean Murray will direct this nod to the 1940s radio show, with Tom Andrew reprising his award-winning role as George Bailey. The nostalgic piece will remain at the Old Town Theatre through Dec. 31.

The Lamb’s Players has a very successful musical ensconced in its downtown location in the Horton Grand Theatre. “Mix Tape,” a musical journey through the 1980s, features songs from the decade when Reagan was in the White House and Michael Jackson was at the top of the charts. The production will probably be around for at least one more month.

Meanwhile, the Lamb’s Coronado stage continues to showcase “The Glory Man,” the true story of Clarence Jordan. This world premiere will resonate with the infectious sounds of Appalachian Roots music and Gospel through Nov. 14.

The Poway Center for the Performing Arts features fiddlers Natalie MacMaster and husband Donnell Leahy Nov. 6. The pair will make beautiful music together and bring stories of the warmth of Cape Breton to local audiences during this one-night performance.

San Diego Junior Theatre's production of "Willy Wonka," a company premiere, will continue its run at the troupe's Balboa Park home through Nov. 14. As an added attraction, Junior Theatre snared Leonard Stone (the original Mr. Beauregarde) to appear in this staging.

The San Diego Natural History Museum features "Fossil Mysteries" (from dinosaurs to mammoths) on permanent exhibition. The Natural History Museum also offers "Dinosaurs Alive!", a 3D film experience that takes audiences on a global adventure through the entire age of dinosaurs. Narrated by Michael Douglas, the film is a marvel of computer animation. "Ocean Oasis," a giant-screen film, continues to offer up-close encounters in Mexico's beautiful Sea of Cortez and the Baja California desert.

The Natural History Museum's "Lizards and Snakes Alive," a showcase of about 60 live creatures from around the world, is slithering until next April. The exhibition will also feature a variety of fossil specimens.

The Museum of Contemporary Art kicked off a retrospective exhibition by San Diego-based artist Kim MacConnel in its La Jolla location recently. The show (focusing on this pioneer of the 1970s Pattern and Decoration movement) seeks to go beyond a chronological examination of the artist's development to present environmental installations of his work in series. This first career retrospective of MacConnel's art can be seen through Jan. 16.

The San Diego Museum of Art is featuring "Paintings by Raul Angurano" for an extended stay. The museum's biggest blockbuster, "Toulouse-Lautrec's Paris: Selections from the Baldwin M. Baldwin Collection," is ensconced at the museum through Dec. 19, offering art aficionados the first opportunity in 20 years to view the nearly 100 works together.

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## San Marcos siblings enjoy their roles in Globe's 'Grinch' family

- Story
- Discussion
- Image (3)

San Marcos siblings enjoy their roles in Globe's 'Grinch' family

By PAM KRAGEN - pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times - Californian | Posted: Tuesday, November 23, 2010 10:34 am | No Comments  
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San Marcos sisters Skylar and Shea Starrs Siben play the roles of Annie Who and Cindy-Lou Who in the Old Globe's musical "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Photo courtesy of the Old Globe





Who likes Christmas? "Whos like Christmas," and so do sisters Skylar and Shea Starrs Siben, who have shared the role of Cindy-Lou Who in the Old Globe's "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" musical in Balboa Park for the past four years.

The San Marcos sisters have been connected to the "Grinch" musical since 2006, when Skylar (who's now 11) first took on the role of the little Who girl who melts the Grinch's heart.

Then, when she grew too tall for the part last year (graduating to play elder sister Annie Who), her little sister Shea, who's now 7, stepped in. Spending the holiday season with their "Who family" has become a favorite tradition for the girls and their parents, Matt Siben, a securities fraud lawyer, and Jessica Siben, a stay-at-home mom (their third daughter, Sloane, is 5).

"It's become a throughline for our family," Jessica said. "It's been a wonderful experience because of the people. I think it says something about San Diego's theater community that they've been so warm and welcoming."

The girls didn't grow up in a theatrical family, but Jessica said she always played Broadway soundtracks on her CD player while driving the girls to school each day, and they would sing along. When Skylar was 5, she asked her mom whether she could be in a show, and the next year she landed a job on her first audition ---- Gretel in "The Sound of Music" at Moonlight Amphitheatre in Vista. A few months later, she was cast as Cindy-Lou Who in the "Grinch."

"It was a lot of fun and didn't seem like hard work at all," said Skylar, a sixth-grader at San Elijo Middle School. "I was never nervous on stage; I just felt really comfortable."

In 2008, Skylar played Young Cosette in Moonlight's production of "Les Miserables," and co-starred with younger sister Shea in Moonlight's "Oklahoma" this past summer.

Yet while she enjoys performing, Skylar's not sure she wants to pursue acting for a living. She likes swimming, dancing, camping, writing and reading (she's in the middle of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility"), and she talks about one day becoming an author or kindergarten teacher.

Not so for little sister Shea, who has Starrs both in her name and her eyes (Starrs is their mother's maiden name). Mom Jessica said that of the two girls, Shea definitely shows the most drive to be an actress.

"I've never pushed them into performing, and we only do a few shows a year because I want them to just be girls and have normal kid lives," Jessica said. "But it's been interesting seeing the differences between the two girls. Skylar has an innocence about her when she performs, but Shea has an ambition there."

The writing was on the wall for Shea when she showed up at one of Skylar's first "Grinch" performances in 2006 dressed in a Grinch costume.

"I wanted to be in the 'Grinch' because I wanted to be the Grinch," said Shea, a second-grader at San Elijo Elementary. "I wanted to be the one who sings the Grinch's song 'One of a Kind' and the one who climbs up the ladder in the theater. Then I changed my mind and decided I wanted to be Cindy-Lou."

Skylar said she's enjoyed watching her sister take on her old role (Shea is alternating the role of Cindy-Lou with Remy Margaret Corbin).

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Info: 619-234-5623

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Posted in Theatre on *Tuesday, November 23, 2010 10:34 am* | Tags: Entertainment Preview, Nct, Theater,



SAN MARCOS  
SIBS SHARE  
'GRINCH' GIG

BY PAM KRAGEN  
pkragen@nctimes.com

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**Siblings Skylar and Shea Starrs Siben play Who sisters in the Old Globe’s “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”** Courtesy photo

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See **Grinch**, 14



Grinch

Continued from Page 13

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# THE CALIFORNIAN

November 24, 2010

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## tomorrow

Thursday, in The Californian



### Preview

San Marcos sisters Skylar and Shea Starrs Siben have spent four years as part of the "Who" family in the Old Globe's "Grinch" musical. Read more in Thursday's **Preview.**

THEATER | SAN DIEGO COUNTY

San Marcos siblings sharing ‘Grinch’ gig

BY PAM KRAGEN  
pkragen@californian.com

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**Siblings Skylar and Shea Starrs Siben play Who sisters in the Old Globe’s “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”**  
Courtesy photo

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## A Familiar Face as the Grinch

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### Jeff Skowron as the Grinch



Sam Hodgson

Jeff Skowron plays the lead role of The Grinch at the Old Globe.

Posted: Friday, October 1, 2010 3:53 pm

Posted on October 1, 2010



by Kelly Bennett

Fun to see the [announcement](#) today that New York City-based actor Jeff Skowron will be back to play the Grinch at The Old Globe. [I hung out with Skowron](#) last December for a story in our People at Work series.

Usually I wrote about [local workers](#) in that series. But I was intrigued to write about this itinerant artist community and its impact on the economy -- people like Skowron whom local arts institutions bring in for a weekend or for a few months to live, rehearse and perform here.

This will be the 13th season of the adored theatrical version of the Dr. Seuss tale. It started here and has stretched all the way to Broadway. That's where Skowron first learned the production, performing as a few different Who characters and as the Grinch's understudy.

From my story last December:



Skowron is one of more than 130 people making this year's production go. ...  
Even on days when he has four performances in a row, Skowron must  
remove and reapply his whole getup, from face paint to wig to hairy, hairy  
costume.

*Please contact Kelly Bennett directly at [kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org](mailto:kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org) or 619.325.0531 and follow her on Twitter: [@kellyrbennett](https://twitter.com/kellyrbennett).*

**More about   Grinch**

- **ARTICLE:** In Front of You in Line at the Cafe: The Grinch
- **IMAGE:** Jeff Skowron as the Grinch
- **IMAGE:** Jeff Skowron as the Grinch

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## The Grinch's Lair: 'I'm Out of Toothpaste'

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### Jeff Skowron



Sam Hodgson

Jeff Skowron plays the lead role of The Grinch at the Old Globe.

Posted: Wednesday, October 27, 2010 9:37 am

Posted on October 27, 2010



by Kelly Bennett

Jeff Skowron, the actor playing the Grinch in this season's production at The Old Globe, traveled to San Diego this weekend. His first day of rehearsals was yesterday. Here's the latest dispatch from his backstage blog:

### How does today compare to what you remember the first day being like last year?

It's actually very similar to last year in that it's just me, Logan (Young Max) and Martin (Old Max) for the first week of rehearsal. The rest of the company joins rehearsals next week. Oh and the Cindy Lous (Shea Siben returns this year with a new girl, Remy Corbin) join us on Saturday. This year is different in that we immediately began staging our scenes on the first day, when last year we spent a few days talking through the script.

### Have you donned any of the costume pieces yet? Do they still fit or will you have to have new ones made?

I haven't seen my costume yet, I just wear jeans and sneakers for rehearsal. I did have a fitting for new shoes yesterday. They traced and



measured my foot because the shoes are unusual and custom made for me. Next week I'll probably begin to use the gloves with the long fingers in rehearsal, to get used to that.

### **What was your schedule today?**

Today I had rehearsal from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. then I came home and made phone calls until 10 p.m. It's always hard the first day of being in a new place for a while. You're trying to get situated and get your daily life in order but at the same time you have to be at rehearsal and leave all those concerns behind for several hours. Tomorrow I'm going to rehearsal and then joining the gym. That will make me feel better. And I have to get toothpaste, I'm out of toothpaste. I'll see if Logan will bring me to Ralph's.

*Jeff Skowron will be writing occasional posts from backstage for the next few months while he plays the Grinch at The Old Globe. Have a question of your own for him? You can leave a comment or send me an email at [kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org](mailto:kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org) or 619.325.0531. You can follow me on Twitter: [@kellyrbennett](https://twitter.com/kellyrbennett).*

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## The Grinch's Lair: 'I Just Need to Be Patient'

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Sam Hodgson

Jeff Skowron rehearses for his role of The Grinch in The Old Globe's production of How the Grinch Stole Christmas.



Posted: Monday, November 15, 2010 6:42 pm | Updated: 9:25 am, Tue Nov 16, 2010.

Posted on November 15, 2010



by **Kelly Bennett**

Our mole backstage at The Old Globe's production of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* is the Grinch himself, actor Jeff Skowron. Here's his latest dispatch in this occasional blog from backstage:

### What's been the big news this week?

Well, last week I woke up to exciting news on Nikki Finke's site. The Independent Film Channel announced my show, "Greg and Donny", in [their development slate](#).

### Any hiccups?

All is going well. We have the whole cast now, which is very fun.

### Who are some of the interesting people you're meeting backstage?

Last week we were still in the rehearsal room, but we go into the theatre this week. It will be most of the same crew as when I did it last year which I'm very happy about. I love the crew of the Grinch. It's a whole other thing when you move into the theatre with the crew. I can't wait.

### Does playing this role again give you any ideas about the kind of theatre you want (or don't want) to do in the future?

Playing this role again reminds me that even though a role may seem daunting at first, I can eventually figure it out. Last year it was hard to conceive how I would be able to pace myself to play this role. All those fears were faced last year and conquered. I have a lot more confidence this year about it. There are times in rehearsal where I think of how full of self-doubt I was last year. Now I know how it works and it just reminds me that in any future role of this size, I just need to be patient with myself and trust things will be figured out.

*Jeff Skowron writes occasional posts from backstage while he plays the Grinch at The Old Globe. Have a question of your own for him? You can leave a comment or send me an email at [kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org](mailto:kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org) or 619.325.0531. You can follow me on Twitter: @kellyrbennett.*

#### More about [Grinch](#)

- [The Grinch's Lair: Packing for SD](#)
- [A Familiar Face as the Grinch](#)
- [In Front of You in Line at the Cafe: The Grinch](#)
- [Jeff Skowron as the Grinch](#)

#### More about [Front show](#)

- [Council, City Attorney Feast Again on Porkfest](#)
- [Yogurt Cups Are Blue-Bin Bound](#)
- [The Chia Center: Your Comments](#)
- [Effort Afoot to Save Community Farm](#)

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## Photo of the Day: He's a Mean One

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Photo by Sam Hodgson

Jeff Skowron

Posted: Wednesday, November 17, 2010 12:42 pm | Updated: 5:50 pm, Thu Nov 18, 2010.

Posted on November 17, 2010



by Sam Hodgson

Don't tell the kids, but [Jeff Skowron](#), the actor who plays [The Grinch](#) at The Old Globe, is actually a pretty nice guy. You wouldn't know it from the menacing faces he can pull on stage though. Here's a picture from a recent rehearsal that took place in the basement of the Mingei Museum in Balboa Park.

Please contact Sam Hodgson directly at [sam.hodgson@voiceofsandiego.org](mailto:sam.hodgson@voiceofsandiego.org) or 619.550.5664 and follow him on Twitter: [twitter.com/samuelhodgson](https://twitter.com/samuelhodgson).

### More about [Grinch](#)

- [Arts Report: Green and Changing](#)
- [The Grinch's Lair: 'I Just Need to Be Patient'](#)
- [The Grinch's Lair: Packing for SD](#)
- [A Familiar Face as the Grinch](#)

### More about [Arts](#)

- [What It's Like to Do the Trolley Dance](#)
- [The Arts and Design Community Looks at the Waterfront](#)
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## The Grinch's Lair: An Abscessed Tooth

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Photo by Sam Hodgson

Jeff Skowron takes a break during a rehearsal for The Old Globe's production of "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!"



Posted: Wednesday, December 1, 2010 11:36 am | Updated: 11:40 am, Wed Dec 1, 2010.

Posted on December 1, 2010



by **Kelly Bennett**

I hadn't heard for a couple of weeks from Jeff Skowron, the actor playing the Grinch at The Old Globe, who's been penning a backstage blog for us.

When I finally heard from him yesterday, I learned he'd been battling an abscessed tooth! (Lending, I thought, new importance to the lyric *You're a vile one, Mr. Grinch! You have termites in your smile.*)

Here's the latest from Skowron:

**It's been two weeks; how does the first third bit feel? How is this year's audience different so far?**

We're having a great time so far. The audiences have been great. I love San Diego audiences, they're very supportive and responsive. We had our first student matinee [Monday] morning. Those are always fun because the kids will yell right back at me. There was one girl who wasn't having me today, though. She happened to be sitting in a spot where I often interact directly with the audience. She was waving me away with her hands and scolding me at length. I tried not to take it personally. I think she was eight or nine.

**And tell us about this horrendous dental issue. When did you realize this? Did you have an especially painful performance? Your schedule is so packed in — how did you get time to recover?**

Opening night my tooth started really hurting. Saturday and Sunday we had three shows each day and the pain was tremendous. My face swelled up. It was the weekend after Thanksgiving so dental offices were closed. I finally got to see a dentist on Monday and it turns out I had a bad infection in a root canal.

I'm recovering now, but the weekend was one of the toughest I've ever experienced. But the Globe has such a positive, supportive working atmosphere which made it all bearable. Plus, my dresser Beth carried around a bottle of Advil for me and I was eating those things like they were candy.

**Any mishaps or stories that have been the butt of jokes among the cast and crew?**

Not sure I can get into any detail about our running jokes. But as far as mishaps, so far I knocked over the conductor's music stand and all his music with a prop that I threw, I fell off a scooter, and I accidentally kicked a present into the audience and heard a woman scream.

*Jeff Skowron writes occasional posts from backstage while he plays the Grinch at The Old Globe. Have a question of your own for him? You can leave a comment or send me an email at [kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org](mailto:kelly.bennett@voiceofsandiego.org) or 619.325.0531. You can follow me on Twitter: [@kellyrbennett](https://twitter.com/kellyrbennett).*

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## A GUIDE TO CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS IN SAN DIEGO

WHERE TO SHOP | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO ENJOY TRADITIONS

# A STOCKING FULL OF TICKETS

This holiday season offers a wealth of gifts for lovers of the arts

### POP MUSIC

**T**is the season to join together in harmony. Here are some likely music highlights for the upcoming month.

#### Holiday Jazz Concert at the Athenaeum

Featuring Solveig Slettahjell, Tord Gustavsen and Sjur Miljeteig

Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. La Jolla Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St. Tickets: \$19-\$24; (858) 454-5872 or [l Athenaeum.org/jazz](http://l Athenaeum.org/jazz)

White Christmases don't come much whiter than those in Norway, the long, slender Scandinavian country that stretches up to the Arctic Circle. Likewise, Christmas-themed albums don't come much better than "Natt I Bethlehem," the enchanting 2008 album by three of Norway's most heralded jazz musicians — singer Solveig Slettahjell, pianist Tord Gustavsen and trumpeter Sjur Miljeteig.

Slettahjell, a member of the Slow Motion Quintet, has an exquisite voice and impeccable taste. So do her two bandmates, who resist the urge to "jazz up" the 14 Yule-themed songs featured on "Natt I Bethlehem." Those whisper-soft songs (four sung in English, the rest in Norwegian) will provide the foundation for the trio's all-ages Dec. 5 Athenaeum concert, which promises to be a marvel of hushed intimacy and light-as-a-feather beauty. The fact that Slettahjell, 39, sings mostly in her native tongue allows non-Norwegian listeners to focus on the her finely nuanced voice and her ability to make stately, age-old melodies sound fresh, if not born again.

#### Dan Hicks and The Hot Licks "Crazy for Christmas" CD Release Tour, featuring Jim Kweskin and Geoff Muldaur

Dec. 15, 8 p.m. Belly Up Tavern, 143 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach. Tickets: \$22-\$24; (858) 481-8140 or [bellyup.com](http://bellyup.com)

A onetime contemporary of the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane and other pioneering San Francisco rock legends, with whom he regularly shared stages in the 1960s, Dan Hicks considers himself "more of a hipster than a hippie." By any name, his zesty blend of swing, old-time country, bebop, folk, blues and other rootsy American styles is an unqualified delight.

So is his new "Crazy for Christmas" album, which mixes such fetching new songs by Hicks as "Santa's Workshop" and "I've Got Christmas by the Tail" with his spirited renditions of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," Chuck Berry's rollicking "Run Run Rudolph" and "Santa Gotta Choo Choo" (in actuality a remake of the 1946 Louis Jordan classic, "Choo Choo Ch'Boogie"). As an added bonus, Hicks' Dec. 15 Christmas show at the 21-and-up Belly Up will also feature former Kweskin Jug Band mainstays Jim Kweskin and Geoff Muldaur, two American music treasures who rival him when it comes to making earthy music that exudes joy and wit.

#### Fresh Sound at Sushi: Roots & Reeds concert series presents Oliver Lake

Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Sushi Contemporary Performing & Visual Arts, 390 11th Ave., East Village, downtown. Tickets: \$11-\$15; (619) 235-8466 or



Lamb's Players Theatre stages "An American Christmas" at the Hotel del Coronado. This year's dinner-and-theater performance will run Dec. 12-26. KEN JACQUES

[freshsoundmusic.com](http://freshsoundmusic.com)

While there is no specific holiday theme to his solo alto saxophone and flute concert here, jazz master Oliver Lake's San Diego appearances are so rare that any time he plays here is a festive event worth celebrating. The co-founder of the justly acclaimed World Saxophone Quartet, which he helped launch in 1977, Lake has made dozens of solo albums and also leads a steel-drum quartet and a big band.

An eclectic's eclectic, he has worked with such jazz luminaries as Jack DeJohnette and Anthony Braxton, such edgy rock stars as Björk and Lou Reed, and such hip-hop mavericks as Mos Def and A Tribe Called Quest. Lake's perpetually forward-looking music suggests he is always planning ahead for a new year of musical adventure.

GEORGE VARGA • U-T

### THEATER

When winter rolls around in San Diego, you generally can't fling a sprig of mistletoe without hitting a holiday theater

event of some kind right in the kisser.

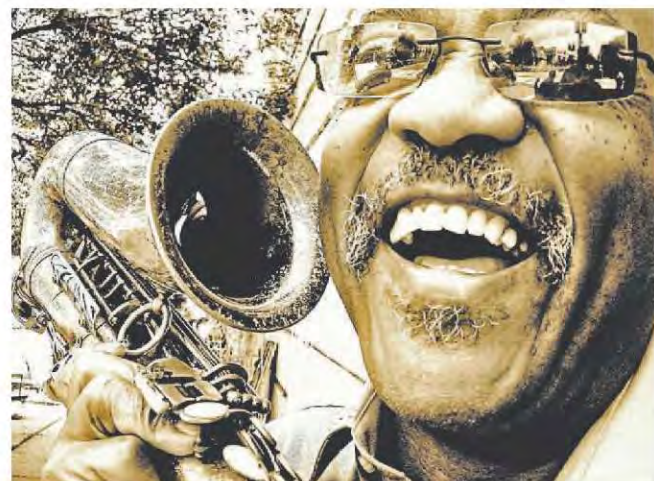
This year is no exception, although the mix is a little different. There's less Scrooge, for one thing. And more George Bailey. Here, a look at what's waiting for you under local theaters' Festivus/Chrismukkah trees.

**"It's a Wonderful Life,"** Welk Resorts Theatre, through Dec. 30: This work, adapted by Tony Palermo, echoes Cygnet Theatre's established live-radio-broadcast spin on the beloved movie. (888) 802-7469 or [welktheatresandiego.com](http://welktheatresandiego.com)

**"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"** Old Globe Theatre, through Dec. 26: The Green One (in the person of Jeff Skowron) skulks back for a lucky 13th year, under James Vasquez's direction. (619) 234-5623 or [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org)

**"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play,"** Cygnet Theatre, Nov. 26 to Dec. 31: The ode to the classic movie about the humbly heroic George Bailey was adapted as a radio play by

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Jazz master Oliver Lake will play a solo concert at Sushi on Dec. 17. YASMIN GROGAN



Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks go "Crazy for Christmas." PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLY UP TAVERN



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Joe Landry; it has become a holiday tradition at Cygnet. (619) 337-1525 or cygnettheatre.com

**“Big Band Christmas,”** Nov. 26 to Dec. 31, *Welk Resorts Theatre*: A celebration of the season through the sounds of the ‘40s. (888) 802-7469 or welktheatresandiego.com

**“A Christmas Carol,”** *New Village Arts Theatre*, Nov. 26-28: A workshop production of a new Dickens adaptation by local performer-writers Rachael VanWormer and Brian Mackey. (760) 433-3245 or newvillagearts.org

**“Plaid Tidings — A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid,”** *Old Globe’s White Theatre*, Nov. 27 to Dec. 26: Written, directed and choreographed by Stuart Ross, the show taps the long-running “Plaid”

franchise. (619) 234-5623 or theoldglobe.org

**“Festival of Christmas,”** *Lamb’s Players Theatre*, Nov. 30 to Dec. 30: The fest features a different play every year; this one’s an encore of the ’50s-set “It’s Christmas and It’s Live!” (619) 437-6000 or lambsplayers.org

**“The Santaland Diaries,”** *New Village Arts Theatre*, Dec. 2-24: NVA brings back its popular staging of the David Sedaris solo comedy, starring Daren Scott. (760) 433-3245 or newvillagearts.org

**“A Taffeta Christmas,”** *Onstage Playhouse*, Dec. 2-5 and 10-12: Another returnee, this ’50s musical revue brightens the stage of the Chula Vista company. (619) 422-7787 or onstageplayhouse.org

**“How Do You Spell Chanukah?”** (Dec. 3-5), **“Mistletoe, Music & Mayhem!”** (Dec. 16-19), **“Dickens Unscripted”** (Dec. 20-21), **“Sister’s Christmas Catechism”**



Conductor Jung-Ho Pak and Orchestra Nova will perform “Masterpiece Messiah” Dec. 10-12. PHOTO COURTESY OF ORCHESTRA NOVA

(Dec. 22-24), *North Coast Repertory Theatre*: NCRT is dropping its “Christmas Carol” this year in favor of a series of theatrical stocking stuffers. (858) 481-1055 or northcoastrep.org

**“The Messiah,”** Dec. 3-19, *Community Actors Theatre*: The popular, music-infused production returns with

its story about the birth of Christ. (619) 264-3391 or communityactorstheatre.com

**“Santa Claus is Coming Out,”** *Diversionsary Theatre*, Dec. 4-21: A special engagement of Jeffrey Solomon’s solo mockumentary, directed by Joe Brancato. (619) 220-0097 or diversionsary.org

**“An American Christmas,”** *Lamb’s Players Theatre*, Dec. 12-26: The sumptuous combination of feast and theater performance returns to the Hotel del Coronado. (619) 437-6000 or lambsplayers.org

**“An Irish Christmas,”** *Balboa Theatre*, Dec. 12: A

one-night show celebrating the yuletide with a Celtic flair. (619) 570-1100 or sdbalboa.org

**“Traditions of Christmas,”** *Christian Community Theatre (at the Balboa Theatre)*, Dec. 17-23: This “musical spectacular” takes up residence in the Gaslamp’s gorgeous Balboa. (619) 588-0206 or christiancommunitytheater.com

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

HOLIDAY CLASSICAL MUSIC

There are holiday concerts, and then there are concerts during the holidays. While the classical musical scene is a little quieter during December, there are still opportunities to celebrate the season or just plain celebrate:

**Handel’s “Messiah”:** They used to be as plentiful as “Nutterackers” and nearly as popular as “The Grinch,”

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but now your choices are limited: A singalong “Messiah” by the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus on Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Carlsbad (lajollasympphony.com or (858) 534-4637) or Orchestra Nova’s “Masterpiece Messiah” with the Bach Collegium on Dec. 10 at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, La Jolla; Dec. 11 at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church; Dec. 12 at First United Methodist Church, Mission Valley (orchestranova.org or (858) 350-0290).

**Holiday pops:** The San Diego Symphony offers winter pops programs at 8 p.m. Dec. 17; 2 and 8 p.m. Dec. 18; and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 at Copley Symphony Hall featuring conductor Matthew Garbutt, vocalist Brian Stokes Mitchell,

and San Diego Master Chorale and the San Diego Children’s Choir (sandiegosymphony.org or (619) 235-0804).

Orchestra Nova is also presenting a 4 p.m. Dec. 19 **“Home for the Holiday”** concert at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido (orchestranova.org or (858) 350-0290).

**Raising the spirit:** Two of the most spiritual pieces in the classical repertoire will be on stage in San Diego during December: The La Jolla Symphony & Chorus offers **Beethoven’s “Missa Solemnis”** at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 and 2 p.m. Dec. 5 at UCSD’s Mandeville Auditorium. A work on, or arguably beyond, the scale of the Symphony No. 9, it’s rarely performed, and this should be one of conductor Steven Schick’s signature “event” programs (lajollasympphony.com or (858) 534-4637). The San Diego Symphony

presents **Mahler’s Symphony No. 2, the “Resurrection” Symphony**, also a full-program, transformative work, at 8 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11; 2 p.m. Dec. 12 (sandiegosymphony.org or (619) 235-0804).

**You have to be there:** The La Jolla Music Society concludes its yearlong **Chopin Bicentennial Celebration**, a survey of the complete works of Chopin, in an 8 p.m. Dec. 10 recital by Melvyn Tan at the Museum of Contemporary Art’s Sherwood Auditorium (at last, Chopin’s Sonata No. 3 in B minor). And at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Balboa, the society will present the remarkable violinist Midori. She was stunning as a child prodigy, and she’s equally stunning, with considerably more insight, as an adult. She has a undeniable gift, and for any music lover it would be a gift to attend this concert.

JAMES CHUTE • U-T

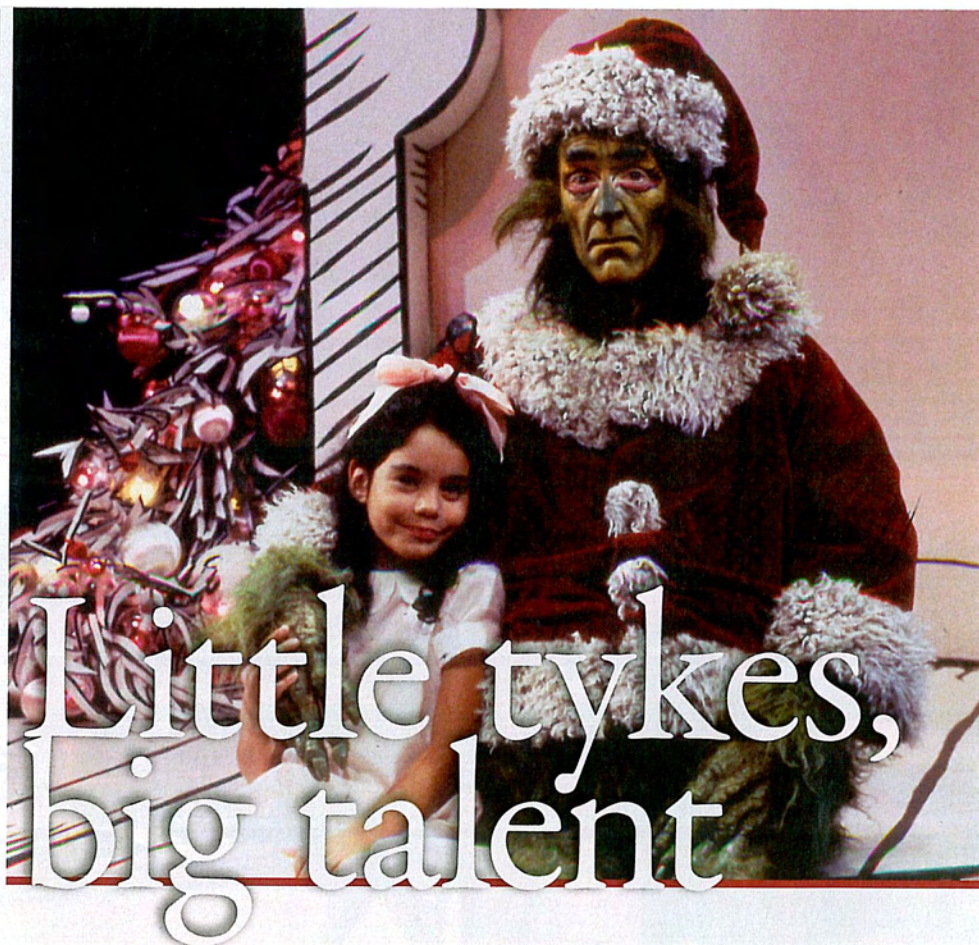


THE OLD GLOBE

# performances

at the **SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE**

DECEMBER 2010



San Diego productions like the *Grinch* are incubators for child actors; here's who to watch for this season. **By Charlene Baldrige**

COAST HIGHWAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Every community produces talented kids. San Diego is no exception, but San Diego goes the additional mile. It produces, trains and nurtures, giving rise to an unprecedented quality and quantity of young performers.

It's well known that Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell (*Ragtime*, *South Pacific*) came up through San Diego Junior Theatre. Vanessa Hudgens, the star of Disney's *High School Musical* who's now achieving celebrity status, portrayed Cindy Lou Who in the Old Globe's 2008-2009 productions of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

The Old Globe opened its 13th annual *Grinch* Nov. 20. Remy Margaret Corbin and Shea Starrs Siben alternate in the leading role of Cindy Lou Who, performing with Jeff Skowron, who returns for his second year as the grouchy Grinch. Adult Grinch veterans include Melinda Gilb as Mama Who, Steve Gunderson as Papa Who, Eileen Bowman as Grandma Who and Phil Johnson as Grandpa Who. Other children in the company include Samantha Wang and Julie Way as Betty-Lou Who; Leif Erik Isaacson and Dylan Nalbandian as Boo Who; and Trevor Juliano Lerma and Lane Palhegyi as Danny Who. Casting director Samantha Barrie confirms that all 20 kids are San Diegans, including alumni and fantastic newcomers. "Many who hadn't gotten cast previously came back,





Left: Future *High School Musical* star Vanessa Hudgens in an early production of the Globe's *Grinch*; right: actress Allie Trimm, one of many child stars on the rise.

showing an incredible amount of dedication and drive," she said.

Although I'm not ready to ascribe our city's abundance of talent to *Grinch* alone, the annual San Diego production has awakened the possibility of life upon the stage for thousands of kids who've seen it and aspired to be in it. A consistent iteration in talks with actors (some *Grinch* alums, some not), their parents, their teachers and their directors, is that dedication and drive are primary to success. Also mentioned are self-discovery, discipline, camaraderie and joy in the process.

Extraordinary performances witnessed just recently include (alphabetically) Matthew Alexander in ion theatre company's *Song of Extinction*; Ian Brininstool in North Coast Repertory Theatre's *Over the Tavern*; four-year, multiple role *Grinch* veteran A.J. Foggiano as

Christopher in the Globe's world premiere musical, *Whisper House*; Hannah Rose Kornfeld as Little Red Riding Hood in New Village Arts' *Into the Woods*; and Danielle Van Orden as the Little Match Girl in Southwestern College's production of Ruff Yeager's new musical, *Come to Life*.

When *Brighton Beach Memoirs* opened Sept. 22, a theatergoer in row G declared he was there specifically to watch 14-year-old Austyn Myers as the youthful Eugene Jerome, 16-year-old Allie Trimm as the determined Nora Morton and 13-year-old Julia Vanderwiel as Nora's sickly sister. Later, the theatergoer revealed himself to be Howard Green, the actor who played the kids' grandfather in *Broadway Bound*.

Myers and Trimm are seasoned Equity performers, Myers ever since he was cast at age 9 to play Gavroche in the Broadway/touring companies of *Les Misérables*, and Trimm, since she was 13 and created the role of Patrice in the Broadway premiere of Jason Robert Brown's musical, *13*.

*Grinch* veteran Trimm discovered her love of performing at 3, when she sang at her aunt's wedding. She pitched a diva fit when the band didn't know the song she wanted to sing, and her mom, Kristin, said, "Uh-oh. She knows what she wants to do."

"I started theater when I was 5," said Allie. "I was Orphan Number 89 in a community theater production

of *Annie*. I worked in community theater till I was 9, then started working professionally at Moonlight Stage, Lamb's Players and in *Grinch*." Of the *Grinch* gig she says, "We were just children taking it in; but I do remember watching the adults and noticing how proper they were compared to us kids." She realized that besides being fun, acting is hard work. "You can't take it for granted. You have to work for it."

Though Trimm relishes the social aspects of high school, including homecoming and friends, it may not be for long. She is involved in the 2012 Broadway-bound production of *Allegiance* with Lea Salonga and George Takei. Trimm's most exciting moment so far was the first preview of *13* on Broadway. "It was our first time having a reaction, laughs, applause. We were beyond exhilarated. I have a photo of our first bow. Our faces are so bright; we were together, holding hands. The moment changed my life. This is what I love."

When Myers started high school, he enrolled in a virtual academy called iHigh where he is currently taking courses in geometry, physics and English on the computer, though he adds enthusiastically, there are real teachers and a real building he can go. A resident of Point Loma, Myers did not attend High Tech High, but spent three years at High Tech Middle and before that went to Explorer Elementary. Seen in the 2008 Eddie Murphy film, *Meet Dave*, he

>CONTINUED ON PAGE 53



made his theatrical debut at age 7 in a school production of *Peter Pan*.

Asked which he'll choose, musical theater or straight acting, Myers declares he loves singing, but acting is for him. "It feels more real. I'm able to take people places without bursting into song." In addition to garnering great reviews for Eugene Jerome, Myers also dazzled theatergoers in the Globe's production of Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers* last season. Next up is an Old Town Temecula production of *13*. Myers, who said he learned a lot about himself in the Simon plays, certainly wants to go as far as he can in theater, but he also aspires to movies and television.

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**"I love working with kids," says Vasquez. "I find myself inspired by their energy, enthusiasm and honesty. They don't lie. And in return force me as the director not to lie."**

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Many kids list the Globe's *Grinch* among their credits, along with shows at Starlight, Moonlight, Lamb's, American Rose Theatre, Coronado Playhouse, The \*J Company, Junior Theatre and California Youth Theatre. Among many others ranging from professional to community theaters, La Jolla Playhouse, the Old Globe, North Coast Repertory Theatre and Intrepid Shakespeare have training programs for youth.

When I attended Pickwick Players' October production of *Snoopy!!! The Musical*, I discovered an unusual mentorship program in which those cast in the adult company mentor those who play the same roles in the youth cast. Well-known community theater actor/singer Barron Henzel, who played Snoopy in the adult company, mentored seventh-grader Adi Mullen. Although he's never taught kids, Henzel feels gratified to give back what he received as a child.

Professional actor/singer/teacher Leigh Scarritt, who has her own youth company, has seen 53 of her students cast in *Grinch* productions since 1998. Historically at least one or both kids cast as Cindy Lou Who are "hers." This year is no exception. Young Shea Starrs Siben is Scarritt's student. Timyra Joi, one of Scarritt's former Cindys, is in the new Duncan Sheik musical, while other Scarritt alumni attend New York University, Berkeley, Yale, Syracuse, Boston Conservatory and Emerson. Scarritt stresses that being one's authentic self is healthy, helpful and even necessary for balance in and out of the industry; that knowing who we are rather than hoping to be someone the producers are looking for is "the ultimate peril. Talent is a gift, a blessing; and when talent and 'smart' meet it's magic."


Among the thousands who work with San Diego's talented kids to make them aware, smart and disciplined are longtime teacher,

performer and progenitor of his own family of performers and creators Ed Hollingsworth; and award-winning actors Linda Libby and DeAnna Driscoll, both drama teachers at High Tech.

James Vasquez, who recently staged *Into the Woods* at New Village Arts, directs *Grinch* this year, having been associated with the production since 2004. "I love working with kids," he says. "I find myself inspired by their energy, enthusiasm and honesty. They don't lie. And in return force me as the director not to lie."

"One of Jack's [O'Brien] original intents was that the Who kids on stage be real kids of all shapes, sizes and colors, and that the kids in the audience would sit and watch the show and see themselves on stage and want to be part of that world."

Libby says that nurturing kids sometimes means being hard on them and sometimes being soft. "Know what kind of day it is, whether they ate breakfast, if they've had their medication, if dad hit them on the way in—you don't know any of that, so you do the best you can to be sensitive and at the same time hold the bar high."

Driscoll chimes in, "Secretly, I want every child to walk away from my class with an absolute and total love of theater like mine. Realistically, I want them to walk away with confidence, with a respect of the rehearsal process and the live performance, and a true sense of accomplishment." 





## The Ho! Ho! Ho-liday Spirit of Coronado

ARTS, OPINION

### San Diego's Best Holiday Theater

Ten shows that will ring your chimes (or jingle your bells).

By **Pat Launer** 10:22am

So how do you like your holiday theater fare: Traditional? Comical? Musical? Cynical? With songs sung in four-part '50s harmony or gospel or hip-hop or Spanish? There's something for every taste and temperament on San Diego stages.

Here, in no particular order, are 10 you should sample. Each has its own unique flavor.

1. *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas*—The Green Meanie returns! The kiddie favorite—fun for adults, too—is back at the Old Globe for the 13th year (it even had a stint on Broadway, but we saw it first!). The brief, intermissionless musical—now available in 11 a.m. performances for the under 3 set—brings the timeless classic to magical life, in all its pink-red-black-and-white glory, plus a splash of fuzzy green. The musical theater version (with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin) is narrated by Old Max, the Grinch's formerly frisky pup, recalling that fateful year the Grinch made an assault on the Whos down in Whoville and attempted to stop Christmas from coming. Of course, he fails, and everyone learns a lesson about the real meaning of the holiday. There's even a bit of snow falling on the audience at the end to seal the deal.

At the Old Globe Theatre, through Dec. 26. Tickets are \$20-\$57 for kids, \$39-\$77 for adults. For tickets or information, call 619-23-GLOBE (234-5623) or visit [theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org) (<http://www.theoldglobe.org/>)

2. *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*—For the fifth year at Cygnet Theatre, the beloved 1946 Frank Capra film is turned into an old-time radio broadcast, with all the sound effects visible, thanks to the wizardry of Foley master Scott Paulson. The story is a perennial tearjerker. Who among us hasn't thought, at one time or another, that the world wouldn't even notice if we were never born? Who doesn't rejoice at George's 11th-hour deliverance, thanks to the love and generosity of all the folks he'd helped over the years, putting aside all his own dreams to sustain the family's ramshackle Building and Loan in tiny, fictional Bedford Falls, NY? Bring tissues, along with your holiday spirit, for this one, with its outstanding cast, each playing multiple roles and punctuating the action with holiday songs and funny commercial breaks, 1940s style.

At Cygnet Theatre in Old Town, through Dec. 31. Tickets are \$34-\$49. For tickets or information, call 619-337-1525 or visit [cygnettheatre.com](http://www.cygnettheatre.com) (<http://www.cygnettheatre.com/>).

NOTE: *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* is also being presented at the Welk Resort Theatre in Escondido, running with *Big Band Christmas*, through Dec. 26. Tickets are \$54-\$57 (\$68-\$73 including buffet). For tickets or information, call 888-802-7469 or visit [welktheatersandiego.com](http://www.welktheatersandiego.com) (<http://www.welktheatersandiego.com/>).

3. *Plaid Tidings: A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid*—A late addition to the Old Globe's holiday season that's filling the air with splendid four-part 1950s-style songs. The Plaids are back (from the dead, again), to complete their unfinished chords and appear on *The Ed Sullivan Show* once again (which gives the guys an opportunity to show off their multiple talents, from juggling to fire-swallowing). The cast is great, the singing is superb. And if it's nerdy and corny, well, who expects from something that's plaid? There isn't much plot line here; the focus is on tight-harmony songs, which range from '50s favorites from "Forever Plaid" ("Sha-Boom," "Stranger in Paradise," "Moments to Remember") to a mashup of Christmas carols. The arrangements are fantastic; the show, like its predecessors, is supremely silly but simply irresistible.

In the Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, through Dec. 26. Tickets are \$37-\$67. For tickets or information, call 619-23-GLOBE (234-5623) or visit [theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org) (<http://www.theoldglobe.org/>).

4. *Festival of Christmas*—For 33 years, Lamb's Players Theatre has been presenting a Festival show, one of 14 scripts penned by resident playwright Kerry M. Lamb, who also appears in this year's offering, *It's Christmas ... and It's Live!* (<http://coronado.patch.com/articles/dramatic-fun-for-the-whole-family>) Set in a 1950s TV studio, circa 1952, before a holiday broadcast of *The Festival of Popular Song*, the show brings together an array of quirky characters who get snowed in and have to do nothing to do but sing. The arrangements are spectacular, and the singing and costumes are too. The plot may be a tad shopworn and sentimental, but it's still a music-filled activity for the whole family.

At Lamb's Players Theatre (<http://coronado.patch.com/listings/lambs-players-theatre-2>) in Coronado, through Dec. 29. Tickets are \$28-\$58. For tickets or information, call 619-437-6000 or visit [lambsplayers.org](http://www.lambsplayers.org) (<http://www.lambsplayers.org/>).

5. *An American Christmas*—Another Lamb's Players tradition, going strong for nearly two decades, *An American Christmas* (<http://coronado.patch.com/articles/an-american-christmas>)



PHOTOS (6)



[/youre-invited-to-a-holiday-dinner-at-the-del](#)) takes you back a century every year. So it's 1910, and you're invited to the Hotel Del Coronado for dinner with the Marshall family, plus a little news, history and lots of glorious song, from popular tunes of the day to Christmas classics. It's all intertwined with a delicious five-course gourmet dinner, served up by the cast of 28, which provides a complete and festive evening of seasonal entertainment.

At the [Hotel Del Coronado](#) (<http://coronado.patch.com/listings/hotel-del-coronado-2>), through Dec. 26. Tickets are \$120; \$35 for children 5-12. For tickets information, call 619-437-6000 or visit [lambsplayers.org](http://www.lambsplayers.org) (<http://www.lambsplayers.org/>).

6. *La Pastorela de Libertad*—It's the 20th anniversary of Teatro Máscara Mágica's Mexican musical twist on the traditional Christmas story. A folk art form dates back to the very beginning of Christianity, the pastorela follows the journey of the shepherds to Bethlehem. Along the way, they face danger and temptations placed in their path by the evil Lucifer and his wicked minions. The bilingual script (primarily English, with carols sung in Spanish), is created and updated year by year by local playwright Max Branscomb, who has provided more than 40 pastorelas to cities on both sides of the border. The cast, helmed by acclaimed director William Virchis, includes Miss California finalist Marina Inserra. Feliz Navidad!

At the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza, through Dec. 19. Tickets are \$7-\$15 and are available by calling 619-544-1000.

7. *The Santaland Diaries*—The hilarious radio monologues that launched the career of humorist David Sedaris on NPR were adapted for the stage in 1996. A sold-out run last year, New Village Arts happily brings back versatile, comical Daren Scott as the out-of-work actor who, in desperation, applies for a holiday job as an elf in Macy's Herald Square. His cynical take on the holidays—and life in general—make for a strychnine-laced alternative to the sugar-plum sweetness of the season.

At New Village Arts Theatre in Carlsbad, through Dec. 24. Tickets are \$20. For tickets or information, call 760-433-3245 or visit [newvillagearts.org](http://www.newvillagearts.org) (<http://www.newvillagearts.org/>).

8. *Oh Come All Ye Faithful: Black Nativity, The Musical*—A soulful retelling of the Christmas story, though gospel music, hip-hop, ballet, krunk dance, spoken word, rap and Praise and Worship. In association with The San Diego Continuing Education Division, Common Ground Theatre promises "a powerful, entertaining and soul-uplifting night at the theater." There's a pre-show gospel opener, and a guest appearance by a different local church choir at every performance.

At the Educational Cultural Complex in San Diego, through Dec. 11. Tickets are \$10-\$30. For tickets or information, call 619-263-7911 or visit [commongroundtheatre.org](http://www.commongroundtheatre.org) (<http://www.commongroundtheatre.org/>).

9. *Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold*—Prepare yourself to be transported back to your Catholic school days (and if you didn't have parochial education, you most certainly had some other variety of memorable classroom martinet). This is one of four spinoffs of the uproarious original, *L Catechism*, created by Maripat Donavan. For the holiday hijinks edition, the Chicago native collaborated with Marc Silva and Jane Morris to set you straight on the real story of Christmas (audience members act out the Nativity), and try to figure out what happened to all the gold those Wise Guys brought with them. It is back at North Coast Repertory Theatre for the seventh time; folks just can't seem to get enough of Sister's strict teachings and jocular admonishments. Lots of improv and audience participation, so come with an open mind (in appropriately modest clothes).

At North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Dec. 22-24. Tickets are \$25-\$30. For tickets or information, call 858-481-1055 or visit [northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) (<http://www.northcoastrep.org/>).

10. *Mistletoe, Music and Mayhem*—This may just become the next local holiday tradition. Local funny men Phil Johnson and Matt Thompson teamed up with composer Rayme Sciaroni (music and lyrics) to create a brand new holiday cabaret show, featuring some of San Diego's best comical and musical talents. Comedy sketches are interwoven with holiday-inspired songs. Find out how cats, Jews, Japanese, Icelanders and Norwegians celebrate the holiday season—and how wacky writers and performers are hellbent on "melting your heart and tickling your funny bone."

At North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Dec. 16-18. Tickets are \$20-\$25. For tickets or information, call 858-481-1055 or visit [northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) (<http://www.northcoastrep.org/>).

Now what are you waiting for? Christmas will have come and gone before you can say "red-nosed reindeer!" And don't forget that theater tickets make *great* gifts.

Here's to a very merry Christmas and a happy—and dramatic—new year!

**What's your favorite holiday show in San Diego? [Tell us in the comments.](#)**

## Other The Ho! Ho! Ho-liday Spirit of Coronado Articles



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By [Chris Morrow](#)



[The 12 Days of Christmas in Coronado: Day 2](#)  
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[The 12 Days of Christmas in Coronado: Day 1](#)  
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[Parade of Lights Sails Past Coronado](#)



ON STAGE

Subbing for Scrooge

'A Christmas Carol' is hard to find this year, but other meanies can help fill the void

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

For the first time in recent memory, the holiday theater scene is nearly (and weirdly) Scrooge-free. No professional theaters around town are doing Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" this year, beyond a brief workshop production (long since closed) and one short-run improv show at North Coast Rep.

But the elusiveness of Ebenezer doesn't mean there's nowhere in the county to get your fix of meanie-meets-enlightenment holiday cheer. Plenty of other stage shows offer at least a taste of "Christmas Carol"-style redemption, minus the infernal clanking of Jacob Marley's chains.

The watchword for this holiday: *Ebenezer-esque*.

(Signed, Scroogeless in San Diego)

**"La Pastorela de Libertad":** You can't get much more Scrooge-y than that hoarder of souls, the Prince of Darkness. This latest edition of Teatro Mascara Magica's Mexican-inspired holiday show pits Lucifer and his goons against the forces of Michael the Archangel. The production, featuring Christmas carols sung in Spanish, continues Dec. 18-19 at the Rep's Lyceum Theatre downtown. (619) 544-1000 or sdrep.org

**"It's a Wonderful Life":** Ah, Mr. Potter — so rich, so cruel, so not getting a Christmas card from the Baileys. Welcome to Team Ebenezer, Mr. P! The antagonist of the Frank Capra movie gets to grump around in two live-radio-style adaptations this season: at Cygnet Theatre



Jeff Skowron stars as the Grinch in this year's production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" at the Old Globe. The holiday musical will run through Dec. 26. MICHAEL LAMONT

through Dec. 31, (619) 337-1525 or cygnettheatre.com; and at the Welk Resorts Theatre through Dec. 30. (888) 802-7469 or welktheatresandiego.com

**"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!":** Let's face it, the Grinch is basically Ebenezer gone green. Dr. Seuss' gift-grabbing cretin holds forth at the Old Globe Theatre through Dec. 26. (619) 234-5623 or theoldglobe.org

**"An Unscripted Carol":** North Coast Rep's two-day show (Dec. 20-21), presented with Impro Theatre of Los Angeles, is an improv take on Dickens, so almost anything could happen. (Like, say, the Cratchits going after Scrooge with a hatchet.) Besides that piece, NCRT also is staging the new holiday cabaret show "Mistletoe, Music and Mayhem" (Dec. 16-18) by Phil Johnson and Matt Thomp-

son (two talented and funny local actor-writers), with music and lyrics by Rayme Sciaroni; and "Sister's Christmas Catechism" (Dec. 22-23), featuring a no-nonsense nun hunting "CSI"-style for the Magi's gold. (858) 481-1055 or northcoastrep.org

**"Santa Claus Is Coming Out":** An anti-gay crusader takes on the Scrooge-esque mantle in Diversionary Theatre's staging of the

Jeffrey Solomon "mockumentary." Solomon himself plays dozens of characters in the provocative piece, running through Dec. 21. (619) 220-0097 or diversionary.org

**And for you purists:** A few community-theater and youth companies are staging "A Christmas Carol" or variations on it. The San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts presents "Scrooge:

The Musical!" through Friday, (619) 475-8556 or www.sepa.sandi.net. Escondido's Patio Playhouse has "Mr. Scrooge & Mr. Dickens" through Sunday, (760) 746-6669 or patioplayhouse.com. And Julian Stage Co. offers "A Christmas Carol," also through Sunday. (760) 765-3789 or julianevents.com

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# NIGHT AND DAY



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## In Scrooge-free season, these shows are Ebenezeresque

BY JAMES HEBERT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010 AT 12:05 P.M.

For the first time in recent memory, the holiday theater scene is nearly (and weirdly) Scrooge-free. No professional theaters around town are doing Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" this year, beyond a brief workshop production (long since closed) at New Village Arts and one short-run improv show at North Coast Rep.

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/ CHARLES S. REECE



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“It’s a Wonderful Life”: Ah, Mr. Potter — so rich, so cruel, so not getting a Christmas card from the Baileys. Welcome to Team Ebenezer, Mr. P! The antagonist of the Frank Capra movie gets to grump around in two live-radio-style adaptations this season: at Cygnet Theatre through Dec. 31, (619) 337-1525 or [cygnettheatre.com](#); and at the Welk Resorts Theatre through Dec. 30. (888) 802-7469 or [welktheatresandiego.com](#)

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And for you purists: A few community-theater and youth companies are staging “A Christmas Carol” or variations on it. The [San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts](#) presents “[Scrooge: The Musical!](#)” through Dec. 17, (619) 475-8556 or [www.scpa.sandi.net](#). Escondido’s Patio Playhouse has “Mr. Scrooge & Mr. Dickens” through Dec. 19, (760) 746-6669 or [patioplayhouse.com](#). And Julian Stage Co. offers “A Christmas Carol,” also through Dec. 19. (760) 765-3789 or [julianevents.com](#)

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TM FEATURE

>> ARCHIVES

## Getting in the Holiday Spirit

George Wendt, Charles Edward Hall, Jim Sherman, and Jeff Skowron discuss the ins and outs of playing iconic holiday characters.

By: **Linda Fowler** · Nov 29, 2010 · New York

To put a fresh face on Old St. Nick, stage actors have to reach deep into their bag of inspiration. Or they could just take a cue from the new Broadway musical, *Elf* which cheerily dispenses this advice: "To thine own elf be true."

In trying to convince untold numbers of kids each holiday season that you're the real deal, some actors often mine their first memories of visits from Santa. **George Wendt**, who plays Mr. Claus in *Elf* recalls a kindly local doctor who donned the red suit and dropped by homes on Christmas Eve -- when he wasn't delivering babies, including Wendt and his six siblings.

But there's more to the part than donning a red suit and some padding (although Wendt claims he's fat enough on his own). Laughs from the audience can also be tricky to land, even with Santa's supernatural sense of comic timing. For one thing, many of the zingers in *Elf* are deliberate winks at grown-ups only.

"I always think about the adults, though I don't know why," says Wendt, who has some of the best lines in Bob Martin and Thomas Meehan's script. "Some of the stuff I get into, like 'Am I still relevant?' and things like that, don't really concern kids. Except bringing toys." And while bellowing a hearty "ho, ho, ho" is part of the job description, the actor admits it's not always easy to get the laugh down cold. "It's not my strong suit," Wendt remarks with a faint chuckle.

Charles Edward Hall, a near-quarter-century veteran of the famed **Radio City Christmas Spectacular**, bases his characterization on his Uncle Walter in Kentucky, a portly man who would grab a beard and cap and tap on young Charlie's window before dashing away. As for his often-booming tones, Hall says he channels former president Richard Nixon by rounding his "o's".

And what about those whiskers? To get himself into the spirit, Jim Sherman, who portrays the big guy in **Miracle on 34th Street** at Chicago's Porchlight Music Theatre, begins growing his own white beard in early August. For his part, Hall thanks a yak for creating his facial hair. "The beard is real. I just happen to take it on and off," he notes.

The internal can be just as important as the external, says Sherman. "You've gotta get inside the character and you'd better love it, particularly for somebody like Santa Claus. Because you can't fake Santa Claus. Although Santa Claus is a secular manifestation of Christmas, it's the belief that kids have of good things and happy times. And that's what I enjoy and that's where I take this character. I wouldn't want Santa Claus to be anything but somebody that every little kid would like to have as a grandfather." (Indeed, the 72-year-old Sherman knows something about being a grandfather -- his dynasty includes seven children, 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, with two great-grandchildren on the way.)



Jeff Skowron in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*  
(© Craig Schwartz)

For other actors, there's a peculiar challenge in portraying the decidedly un-grandfatherly Grinch, the notorious Anti-Claus who delights youngsters in an unsettling way in the musical **Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!** Jeff Skowron, who now does the honors at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego -- where the show originated -- admits to a little bit of a mixed feeling about the role; he says he feels a little awful that his villainous version of Santa puts "a look of horror on (kids') faces when you're talking to them."

Skowron's ratty caricature of a red suit in "Grinch" isn't one of his motivators; but the green makeup is an essential -- if not always present -- routine for becoming the Mean One. On three-show days, the 40-minute process is repeated before each curtain. "I sweat so much that the makeup comes off," he says, grimacing audibly over the phone. "I actually have to wash everything off and start over for each show. It's nothing you can reapply, it looks too messy."

While Skowron can exit through a crowded lobby and not be recognized, after the final bows at *Miracle on 34th Street*, Sherman greets audience members from his onstage throne for another 45 minutes. As for Wendt, he's probably more recognizable out of his Santa suit thanks to his Emmy Award-winning portrayal of barfly Norm in TV's *Cheers*.

For his part, Hall is not only stopped by children near his home in midtown Manhattan, but he interacts up to four times each day with the enthusiastic Radio City audiences. "When you have 6,000 people opening their hearts, it's amazing," says Hall. "It's why we're in theater. Santa is a much better person than I am. And he holds much more magic than I do. But I'm learning."



George Wendt in *Elf*  
(© Joan Marcus)

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01:52 PM

# EAST COUNTY GAZETTE

November 4, 2010

## Spotlight on community theatre

Previews by Diana Saenger

### Old Globe Theatre

Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, directed by Ray Chambers, and collaboration with the University of San Diego, the nationally-renowned Master of Fine Arts Professional Actor Training Program unfolds Nov. 7 - 14 in the Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre. Destructive jealousy unhinges King Leontes, causing him to lose everything he holds dear. Only an infant left in the wild, an oracle's proclamations and

a statue magically coming to life can lead to his redemption and a happy ending for all. *Plaid Tidings* – A Special Holiday Edition of *Forever Plaid* moves into the theatre to run Nov. 27 - Dec 26. The hilarious, heavenly quartet is coming to The Old Globe to croon their tight swinging harmonic renditions of musical hits from the '50s and '60s. This nostalgic holiday extravaganza is the very best of *Forever Plaid* wrapped up in a nifty package with a big bow on top! Stuffed with such "Plaid-erized" Christmas standards as "Mr. Santa," "Let It Snow" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," *Plaid Tidings* is one holiday treat that is truly heaven sent.

Running in the Globe Theatre Nov. 20 - Dec 26 is the annual favorite *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* Dazzling adults and children alike, this favorite holiday fable, back for its 13th 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's stage. Come take part in the fun as the Old Globe Theatre is transformed into the snow-covered Whoville right down to the last can of Who-hash! For more information call (619) 23-GLOBE, [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org)



Jeff Skowron returns as The Grinch in the 2010 production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at The Old Globe.





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DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

SECTION B TO THE EAST COUNTY GAZETTE VOL. 11, NO. 25, NOVEMBER 25, 2010



# EAST COUNTY GAZETTE

November 25, 2010

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## Out and about in the County

ON THE COVER: Shea Starrs Siben as Cindy-Lou Who and Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in the 2009 production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! at The Old Globe. The annual holiday musical will run Nov. 20 - Dec. 26, 2010. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

Check next weeks Gazette for a review of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!



## Dayton Daily News

### Ex-Oakwood, Tipp resident finds steady work on stage

Terry Morris

Posted: 12/03/2010 10:04 PM



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It's a glad and "Plaid" Christmas for former Tipp City and Oakwood resident Jason Heil, who's making his debut at the famed Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

He's in the cast of the musical "Plaid Tidings" through Dec. 26 in the holiday spinoff of "Forever Plaid," about a 1950s-60s quartet that comes back from heaven for one more show on earth. He plays the character Smudge.

Heil is the exception to the supposed rule that theater is a poor career choice. He's been steadily employed and has a stable home life.

Even so, the chance to take the stage at the Old Globe is a feather in his cap. The 70-year-old landmark is one of the country's most renowned regional professional theaters.

Heil, who attended Smith Elementary School in Oakwood and Tippecanoe High School in Tipp City, got into theater "probably because I loved watching it so much." He performed in the 1987 and '88 **Muse Machine** musicals ("Carousel" and "Guys and Dolls") at the **Victoria Theatre**, studied at Oberlin College, then earned a BA and MFA in drama at the University of California Irvine,

"I love movies, books and other methods of storytelling.

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# RANCH & COAST MAGAZINE

November 2010



Logan Lipton as Young Max and Jeff Skowron as the Grinch in the 2009 production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at The Old Globe. Adding to the spirit of the production, the Globe will stage its fifth annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, November 21, at 6pm, on the Globe's Copley Plaza

**Who's Going To Whoville?** Enter a world filled with imaginative characters at The Old Globe. *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* will transport you to the snow-blanketed town of Whoville, where Cindy-Lou Who will steal your heart in this upbeat whimsical musical. Of course, the Grinch will have to overcome his dastardly ways first, but love and generosity win in the end. The set resembles a book, suggesting turning pages as when reading the classic in illustrated form. *Grinch* is back for the 13th consecutive year due to its incredible popularity. It will entrance audiences, young and old, all over again. On view November 20 through December 26. (619/23-GLOBE, [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org)) DARLENE G. DAVIES



Hosted by the Del Mar Village Association and the City of De...

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On Sunday, November 7, from 11am-2pm, toddlers and tweens ar...

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Logan Lipton as Young Max and Jeff Skowron as the Grinch in the 2009 production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* at The Old Globe

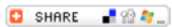


Who's Going To Whoville?

11/05/10

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[www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org)) DARLENE G. DAVIES



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## THE CLOCK'S TICKING ON 2010

Illuminate the holiday spirit with your family, or hit the town with your friends

KELI DAILEY • U-T

**F**rom Christmas Day cruising on the water to New Year's Eve raising a champagne glass, there's no place like San Diego this holiday season. Here's where to go for holiday cheer.

### For the whole family

#### The Grinch

*Now through Sunday. 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. (619) 234-5623 or [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org). \$42 to \$57 for kids, \$62 to \$77 for adults.*

The green guy who hates the holidays is back in the beloved "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Celebrating its 13th year at the Old Globe Theatre.



Remy Margaret Corbin as Cindy-Lou Who and Jeff Skowron as the Grinch. MICHAEL LAMONT



## STORIES THEATER REVIEWS

## Where Words Fail

By Jeff Smith | Published Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2010

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Bill Camp in *Notes from the Underground*: "I am a sick man. I am a wicked man."

In one sense the best, in most others the worst of times. Throughout the county the level of performance has never been higher. You can expect competent acting in most local theaters. Two examples: Scripps Ranch, an erstwhile "community" theater, is fast becoming a regular stop on the critics' beat; Moonlight Stage Productions' radiant *Ring Round the Moon*, in Vista, was a personal favorite.

For the first time, the Critics Circle announced nominees for its annual Craig Noel Awards before the ceremony itself (listed at [sdcriticscircle.org](http://sdcriticscircle.org)). Ordinarily, the maximum is five per award. In some of the acting categories, six became finalists — culled from bulging lists of eight or nine strong candidates (that Monique Gaffney didn't make the cut for her outstanding performance in *Gee's Bend* at North Coast Rep still boggles the mind). The performance bar has never been higher; the economic bar, never lower.

A current TV commercial says one in six Americans is "going hungry" — one in six. But instead of showing them, you see images of smiling faces and great heaps of food — puffy pizzas sliding off of a tray — and joy abounding, thanks to the Bank of America. There's a disjoint between what you see and hear. TV wouldn't dare show the homeless man I saw on Rosecrans, holding a cardboard sign that read, "If this recession hasn't bit you yet, you're an a-hole!"

The result in theaters: artistic timidity. Stage the familiar, the nonthreatening, the audience-stroking; show steaming pizzas, not famished faces.

In recent years, the line between entertainment and art has blurred. What emerges from a look back at 2010 are attempts to take audiences beyond safe themes and stock responses to the place where words fail and emotions brim — the attempts, in other words, at art.

Ion Theatre deserves an award for courage. They took over the old Sixth at Penn stage, converted it into a handsome, intimate space, and never once gave in to the Don't Worry, Be Happy syndrome.

They opened 2010 at Diversionary with *Hurlyburly*. The word on David Rabe's vortex of narcissistic males: if you stage it, they won't come. Those who did saw one of the year's finest productions. Francis Gercke played Eddie, an Omega male so self-absorbed he might implode. For almost three hours, Gercke sustained a manic intensity. As part of an outstanding ensemble cast, Karson St. John did an unforgettable monologue as Bonnie, a stripper who uses a balloon. She sums up the 20th Century with "Who does anybody know who is doing okay?" Even so, she adds, people shouldn't be "pushing others out of cars."

In its own space, among other impressive projects, Ion staged *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, with Deanna Driscoll and Jeffrey Jones. Like Rosina Reynolds and Richard Baird, who clicked on every imaginable cylinder in North Coast Rep's *Ghosts*, Driscoll and Jones did remarkable tandem work (allegedly a box-office no-no, *Ghosts* was one of North Coast Rep's best-sellers).

Cygnnet Theatre once again demonstrated its versatility. They followed a rip-roaring version of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* (said to be audience-unfriendly, it

played to sold-out houses — we seeing a pattern here?), with its exact opposite: Noel Coward's elegant farce *Private Lives*. Like the contrasting styles, the sets couldn't have been further apart: Sean Fanning caked *Sweeney*'s brick walls with London soot; Andrew Hull opened *Lives* with a windswept French Riviera exterior, which looked permanent, then followed it with a posh Parisian flat filled with, what, 20 pillows, 50?

One of my favorite scenes last year happened during the scene change for *Private Lives*. When first performed back in the '30s, the transition took place behind a curtain. Cygnet did it before our eyes: a cavalcade of pillows, tossed here and there, bouncing into place, piling higher and higher. In the age of minimalism — economic and artistic — it was a kick to watch old-time, scenic opulence accumulate, amazingly, in about ten minutes.

My love of musicals has been lifelong, but my respect for well-made ones grows every year: so many elements to integrate, so many people wearing hats you wonder which works better, collaborators (Rodgers and Hammerstein) or control freaks (Jerome Robbins, Bob Fosse)?

The musicals of 2010 provided no answer. They had appealing ideas: a haunted lighthouse (*Whisper House*, Old Globe), New Orleans' red-light district and the birth of jazz (*Storyville*, San Diego Rep), a life of Charlie Chaplin (*Limelight*, La Jolla Playhouse). But none had a halfway decent book. The stories were just transitions to the next song. And in some cases, you'd swear the score and the book met for the first time on opening night. Some needed more central control, others had too much, but they made one thing clear: in musicals, the story's still the spine.

There were two local answers for musical success: have James Vasquez direct (he codirected *Sweeney* and helmed *Title of Show*, the four-handed charmer at Diversionary); the other, cast Steve Gunderson. He excelled — if I can remember them all — in *Hairspray*, *Into the Woods*, *The Grinch*, *Sweeney Todd*. To top it off, Starlight did a lively version of *Suds*, which Gunderson cowrote.

For its summer festival, the Old Globe hired a director at once in control and democratic. Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company from 1991 to 2002, staged two of the year's most impressive productions: *King Lear* and *The Madness of George III*. In both, speech and action were one. There was never a sense, as so often in Shakespeare and "classic" theater, of spaces between the two: strange pseudo-pauses or false emphases. The cast for *Lear* performed as if every moment was brand new. Best overall staging I've seen of that great play.

The critics only award acting that originates in San Diego. Might have to make 2010 an exception. Tovah Feldshuh's one-person show, *Golda's Balcony* — about Golda Meir, fourth prime minister of Israel — practically hypnotized Old Globe audiences. Whether gray-haired and chain-smoking in a beat-up blue bathrobe or shedding decades in seconds, Feldshuh was masterful — not only as Meir but also in cameos (including a hilarious Henry Kissinger).

It will be equally impossible to forget another "touring" performance: Bill Camp as The Man in *Notes from Underground* at La Jolla Playhouse (based on the Dostoevsky novel and originally staged at Yale Rep). Barefoot on a snow-covered floor, wearing a headset mike, his face often projected across the rear wall, Camp began with the book's first words: "I am a sick man. I am a wicked man. I am an unattractive man," and then backed them up. He played all four



seasons often, it seemed, at once: funny, confused, passive, angry, the later percolating into a massive eruption. In the end The Man took on the full hatred of the audience. He just stared back, as if he didn't care, so long as your reaction was violent.

I'm always curious about what makes a great performance tick. As I watched Feldshuh and Camp (and Rob McLure playing Charles Chaplin in *Limelight*), I applied the Technique Test: pull back and check out the craft, find the hooks and stays in their strings of moments. See the actor. Impossible. They were so focused you couldn't break yours.

Ditto *Ruined* at La Jolla Playhouse. I had read Lynn Nottage's play before (it won the Pulitzer Prize in drama for 2009) but had no idea it could sting — or sooth — so deeply.

Civil war storms around Mama Nadi's demilitarized bar/brothel in the Ituri rain forest. Somehow, with gunfire not far away, she accommodates miners, rebels, and soldiers of the Democratic Republic of Congo and provides relative safety for her girls. Then forces close in.

And somehow the play (and the excellent Liesl Tommy-directed production) managed to find positives amid convincing chaos. The ensemble cast was amazing, and the sound/score so integral it became clear only afterward that *Ruined* is also a musical with choreography, songs, and an ongoing, pulseline beat.

When you reach that place where words fail and emotions brim, sometimes it's tempting to corral — and distance — your response with metaphor. So *Ruined* is about “survival” or “exploitation” or what the author calls the “war on women.” And it's all these in triplicate, but so much more, and far more immediate. As with the Technique Test, it wouldn't let you pull away. As the song goes, the play and production were far better than a metaphor can ever, ever be.

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# The Show Goes On

By **Ilene Hubbs**

Coming from an area where New York Theater was easily accessible, I became a theater lover at a young age. I saw my first Broadway play at 15 and I was hooked. After that it was my biggest treat. Luckily I married someone who shared this love and we saw everything we could manage. From the first production of "Fiddler on the Roof" to the revival of "South Pacific," we spent our entertainment budget to get the best seats in the house. Moving to San Diego in the 70's, I knew I would love the climate and the beauty, but worried what would happen if we wound up in a theater wasteland.



**ILENE HUBBS**

Thirty plus years later, there is nothing to worry about. Quality theater in San Diego is alive and well and thriving. In December I saw three very different productions, each seemingly catering to a specific audience. The Old Globe's production of "Plaid Tidings" was filled with a mostly middle age to elderly group decked out in traditional holiday finery. The house was sprinkled with more than a share of red and green featured mostly on holiday sweaters starring Santa, Rudolph and candy canes, and lots of smiling grandmas with ornament-like earrings hanging proudly from their earlobes. The play had a simple Christmas plot designed to allow four fine singers, known as Forever Plaid, to harmonize to some of the 50's and 60's best ballads. I found myself singing along to "Chances Are," "Mambo Italiano," "White Christmas" and many more great old songs, the kind where lyrics stay in your memory forever. It was sweet and charming and a nice nostalgic exercise for the mind.

A few weeks later I attended "Ruined" at the La Jolla Playhouse.

This provocative and powerful play centered on the atrocities committed against hundreds of thousands of women in the Congo, victimized by soldiers as the spoils of war. This Pulitzer Prize winning play was not easy to watch. It brought these women to life and instilled compassion in me that I'm sure was shared by everyone in the audience. I looked around at times and saw the rapt faces of intelligent playgoers who were there, I surmise, not to smile and sing along, but to learn and feel through the power of theater. The audience was comprised of many age groups and many races, and all seemed to

be affected by the play's ability to both horrify and give hope. The story was emotional, the acting superb and I thought once again I have been able to be part of a fine San Diego theatre experience.

Lastly, I had the joy of seeing "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" for the second time in six years. Each time I took children who had never seen a play. The first time was with two of my grandchildren who were then five and seven and this time with another grandchild who is seven. To me, there is nothing more joyful than being part of a child's first theater experience. The long standing Grinch is the perfect play for that age group. The story is familiar and the music and scenery are spectacular. Characters are running up and down the aisles, glittery and colorful things are falling out of the sky and everyone is having a wonderful time. But the best part of all, especially for this theater loving grownup is the look on a grandchild's child's face as he experiences the same excitement I felt when the curtain went up for the first time in my life.




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Single tickets for Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! will go on sale Friday, Sept. 3 at 12:00 noon. The annual holiday musical, directed by James Vasquez with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre November 20 - December 26. Previews run from Nov. 20 - Nov. 24. Opening night is Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets to Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! are currently available to subscribers only. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for children. Performances are restricted to children 3 years and up

except for the 11:00 a.m. performances for which tickets can be purchased for children of all ages. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://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 13th 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.

The fifth annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 21 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 are included with the tickets to the November 20 performance at 4:30.

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The Globe's 2010-11 Winter Season features Brighton Beach Memoirs and Broadway Bound (Sept. 14 - Nov. 7), Welcome to Arroyo's (West Coast Premiere/Sept. 25 - Oct. 31), Jane Austen's Emma - A Musical Romantic Comedy (Jan. 15 - Feb. 27), Death of a Salesman (Jan. 22 - Feb. 27, 2011), Groundswell (March 12 - April 17), Rafta, Rafta... (West Coast Premiere/March 19 - April 24, 2011), Life of Riley (U.S. Premiere/April 30 - June 5) and August: Osage County by Tracy Letts (May 7 - June 12).

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

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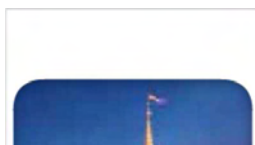
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## Skowron Returns as the Grinch at Old Globe, 11/26-12/26



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[Jeff Skowron](#) will return as the Grinch in the Globe's 13th annual production of [Dr. Seuss'](#) How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Skowron made his Globe debut as the Grinch in last season's production. The annual holiday musical, directed by [James Vasquez](#) with book and lyrics by [Timothy Mason](#) and music by [Mel Marvin](#), will run in the [Old Globe Theatre](#) Nov. 20 - Dec. 26. Previews run from Nov. 20 - Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

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[Dr. Seuss'](#) How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic [Dr. Seuss](#) book. Back for its 13th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "Santa for a Day," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome, Christmas (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.

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 Restaged Choreography 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) and [Leila Knox](#) (Stage Manager).

The complete cast will be announced at a later date.

[Jeff Skowron](#) is no stranger to Grinch, having performed in both the 2007 and 2008 Broadway productions. He is co-creator and co-star with Matt Yeager of the popular web series "Greg and Donny," which recently won the top honor at the 2010 New York Television Festival: a development deal with the Independent Film Channel ([www.greganddonny.com](http://www.greganddonny.com)). His Broadway credits include Enron (Trader), The Lion King (Ed, Timon, Zazu), Beauty and the Beast (Lefou), High Society (Stanley) and the workshop of The Boy From Oz (playing Chris Bell opposite [Hugh Jackman](#)). Skowron has appeared Off Broadway in Debbie Does Dallas and Zombie Prom. His regional credits include 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 Company. Film and television credits include New York City Serenade, The Narrows, How to Seduce Difficult Women, The Good Shepherd, A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints, Premium, Chapter 27, all "Law & Order" series and "Mary and Rhoda." Skowron plays Ryan on the hit web series "The Burg" ([www.theburg.tv](http://www.theburg.tv)), directed by Peter Sollett, and Pippin on "All's Faire" ([www.allsaire.tv](http://www.allsaire.tv)).

[James Vasquez](#) has been re-creating the original musical staging for Grinch since 2003. His recent directing credits include the West Coast premieres of [title of show]



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and Twist (Diversionsary Theatre), Sweeney Todd, A Little Night Music (choreographer) and Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Cygnet Theatre Company) and Into the Woods (New Village Arts). Along with his partners [Mark Holmes](#) and [Carrie Preston](#), Vasquez is co-founder of Daisy 3 Pictures. Their first two feature films, 29th and Gay (TLA Releasing, Here TV) and Ready? OK! (Wolfe Video, LOGO) have played national and international film festivals, with Ready? OK! taking top honors in Seattle, North Carolina and San Diego. Daisy 3 is currently in production on its latest feature, That's What She Said, starring [Anne Heche](#). As an actor, Vasquez has appeared on film, television, Off Broadway, regional and local stages. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Drama.

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

CALENDAR: Brighton Beach Memoirs and Broadway Bound (9/14-11/7), Welcome to Arroyo's (9/25-10/31), The Winter's Tale (11/7-11/14), [Dr. Seuss'](#) How The Grinch Stole Christmas! (11/20-12/26), [Jane Austen's](#) Emma - A Musical Romantic Comedy (1/15-2/27), Death of a Salesman (1/22-2/27).

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## Cast & Creative Team Set For DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

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Executive Producer Lou Spisto today announced the complete cast and creative team for the Globe's 13th annual production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The annual holiday musical, directed by James Vasquez with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre Nov. 20 - Dec. 26. Previews run from Nov. 20 - Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for children. Performances are restricted to children 3 years and up except for the 11:00 a.m. performances for which tickets can be purchased for children of all ages. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://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 13th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "Santa for a Day," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome, Christmas (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.

As previously announced, Jeff Skowron returns for his second year as the grouchy green Grinch. The cast also features Logan Lipton (Young Max), Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Remy Margaret Corbin and Shea Starrs Siben (Cindy-Lou Who), Melinda Gilb (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), Phil Johnson (Grandpa Who), Emma Ford and Skylar Starrs Siben (Annie Who), Samantha Wang and Julia Way (Betty-Lou Who), Leif Erik Isaacson and Dylan Nalbandian (Boo Who), Trevor Juliano Lerma and Lane Palhegyi (Danny Who) with Aaron Acosta, Liam James Brandt, Felicity Bryant, Dominique Castillo, Courtney Corey, Randall Dodge, Madeline Edwards, Anna George, Kyle J. Jackson, Samantha Littleford, Allison Ma, Kürt Norby, Karyn Overstreet, Lou Francine Rasse, Emma Rasse and Anise Ritchie (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 Ron Colvard, Additional Choreography by Bob Richard and Restaged Choreography 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), Annette Yé (Stage Manager) and Deirdre Rose Holland (Assistant Stage Manager).

The fifth annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday,

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Nov. 21 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 will 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 are included with the tickets to the Nov. 21 performance at 4:30 p.m.

Jeff Skowron is no stranger to Grinch, having performed in both the 2007 and 2008 Broadway productions. He is co-creator and co-star with Matt Yeager of the popular web series "Greg and Donny," which recently won the top honor at the 2010 New York Television Festival: a development deal with the Independent Film Channel ([www.greganddonny.com](http://www.greganddonny.com)). His Broadway credits include Enron (Trader), The Lion King (Ed, Timon, Zazu), Beauty and the Beast (Lefou), High Society (Stanley) and the workshop of The Boy From Oz (playing Chris Bell opposite Hugh Jackman). Skowron has appeared Off Broadway in Debbie Does Dallas and Zombie Prom. His regional credits include 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 Company. Film and television credits include New York City Serenade, The Narrows, How to Seduce Difficult Women, The Good Shepherd, A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints, Premium, Chapter 27, all "Law & Order" series and "Mary and Rhoda." Skowron plays Ryan on the hit web series "The Burg" ([www.theburg.tv](http://www.theburg.tv)), directed by Peter Sollett, and Pippin on "All's Faire" ([www.allsaire.tv](http://www.allsaire.tv)).

James Vasquez has been re-creating the original musical staging for Grinch since 2003. His recent directing credits include the West Coast premieres of [title of show] and Twist (Diversionary Theatre), Sweeney Todd, A Little Night Music (choreographer) and Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Cygnets Theatre Company) and Into the Woods (New Village Arts). Along with his partners Mark Holmes and Carrie Preston, Vasquez is co-founder of Daisy 3 Pictures. Their first two feature films, 29th and Gay (TLA Releasing, Here TV) and Ready? OK! (Wolfe Video, LOGO) have played national and international film festivals, with Ready? OK! taking top honors in Seattle, North Carolina and San Diego. Daisy 3 is currently in production on its latest feature, That's What She Said, starring Anne Heche. As an actor, Vasquez has appeared on film, television, Off Broadway, regional and local stages. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Drama.

**TICKETS** to Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://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. 20 and continue through Dec. 26. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for children (17 years and under). Performance times: Previews: Saturday, Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 21 at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 26 at 2:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesday - Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Additional performances: Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 23 at 2:00 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 24 at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. (there is no 7:00 p.m. performance that day). There are no performances on Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 3, 8 or 9 and Christmas, Dec. 25.

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

**CALENDAR:** Brighton Beach Memoirs and Broadway Bound (9/14-11/7), Welcome to Arroyo's (9/25-10/31), The Winter's Tale (11/7-11/14), Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas! (11/20-12/26), Jane Austen's Emma - A Musical Romantic Comedy (1/15-2/27), Death of a Salesman (1/22-2/27).

**PHOTO EDITORS:** Digital images of The Old Globe's productions are available at [www.TheOldGlobe.org/pressroom](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org/pressroom).

The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is one of the country's leading professional regional theaters and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 75 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



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THEATER NEWS

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

By: **Dan Bacalzo** · Oct 25, 2010 · San Diego

Full casting has been announced for the **Old Globe Theatre's** 13th annual production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, to run November 20 - December 26. James Vasquez will direct the production.

With book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the show, conceived and originally directed by Jack O'Brien and choreographed by John DeLuca, brings to the stage Dr. Seuss' classic children's story about a mean creature that tries to ruin Christmas for the denizens of Whoville.

As [previously reported](#), Jeff Skowron will reprise his portrayal of the title character. The cast will also feature Logan Lipton (Young Max), Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Remy Margaret Corbin and Shea Starrs Siben (Cindy-Lou Who), Melinda Gilb (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), Phil Johnson (Grandpa Who), Emma Ford and Skylar Starrs Siben (Annie Who), Samantha Wang and Julia Way (Betty-Lou Who), Leif Erik Isaacson and Dylan Nalbandian (Boo Who), Trevor Juliano Lerma and Lane Palhegyi (Danny Who) with Aaron Acosta, Liam James Brandt, Felicity Bryant, Dominique Castillo, Courtney Corey, Randall Dodge, Madeline Edwards, Anna George, Kyle J. Jackson, Samantha Littleford, Allison Ma, Kurt Norby, Karyn Overstreet, Lou Francine Rasse, Emma Rasse and Anise Ritchie (Ensemble).

The creative team will include Ron Colvard (music direction), Bob Richard (additional choreography), John Lee Beatty (scenic design), Robert Morgan (costume design), Pat Collins (lighting design), and Paul Peterson (sound design).

For more information on the show, [click here](#).



Jeff Skowron in *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*  
(© Craig Schwartz)



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## Photo Flash: THE GRINCH at the Old Globe Theatre



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**Dr. Seuss' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!**Book and Lyrics by [Timothy Mason](#)Music by [Mel Marvin](#)

Original Production Conceived and

Directed by [Jack O'Brien](#)Directed by [James Vasquez](#)Original Choreography by [John DeLuca](#)

Musical Direction by Ron Colvard

Additional Choreography by [Bob Richard](#)Choreography Restaged by [James Vasquez](#)

RUNS: Nov. 20 - Dec. 26, 2010,  
Old Globe Theatre, Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage.

TICKETS: \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for  
children (17 years and under).

SYNOPSIS: San Diego's favorite holiday tradition, back for its 13th 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's stage.

CREATIVE TEAM: [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) and Leila Knox (Stage Manager).

CAST: [Jeff Skowron](#) (The Grinch), [Logan Lipton](#) (Young Max), [Martin Van Treuren](#) (Old Max), Remy Margaret Corbin and Shea Starrs Siben (Cindy-Lou Who), [Melinda Gilb](#) (Mama Who), [Steve Gunderson](#) (Papa Who), [Eileen Bowman](#) (Grandma Who), [Phil Johnson](#) (Grandpa Who), Emma Ford and Skylar Starrs Siben (Annie Who), Samantha Wang and Julia Way (Betty-Lou Who), Leif Erik Isaacson and Dylan Nalbandian (Boo Who), Trevor Juliano Lerma and Lane Palhegyi (Danny Who) with Aaron Acosta, Liam [James Brandt](#), Felicity Bryant, Dominique Castillo, [Courtney Corey](#), Randall Dodge, Madeline Edwards, [Anna George](#), Kyle J. Jackson, Samantha Littleford, Allison Ma, Kürt Norby, [Karyn Overstreet](#), Lou Francine Rasse, Emma Rasse and Anise Ritchie (Ensemble).

Photo by [Craig Schwartz](#)

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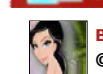
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**News: U.S./Canada**

**The Old Globe's 13th Annual *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* Begins Nov. 20; Casting Announced**

By *Thomas Peter*  
26 Oct 2010

The complete cast and creative team for The Old Globe's 13th annual production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has been announced. The show will begin its run at the acclaimed San Diego regional theatre Nov. 20, with an official opening set for Nov. 26. Performances play to Dec. 26.

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James Vasquez will direct a cast led by Jeff Skowron, returning for a second year as the green-fur-covered anti-Christmas character. The cast will also feature Logan Lipton (Young Max), Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Remy Margaret Corbin and Shea Starrs Siben (Cindy-Lou Who), Melinda Gilb (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), Phil Johnson (Grandpa Who), Emma Ford and Skylar Starrs Siben (Annie Who), Samantha Wang and Julia Way (Betty-Lou Who), Leif Erik Isaacson and Dylan Nalbandian (Boo Who) and Trevor Julianio Lermaand Lane Palhegyi (Danny Who).

Aaron Acosta, Liam James Brandt, Felicity Bryant, Dominique Castillo, Courtney Corey, Randall Dodge, Madeline Edwards, Anna George, Kyle J. Jackson, Samantha Littleford, Allison Ma, Kürt Norby, Karyn Overstreet, Lou Francine Rasse, Emma Rasse and Anise Ritchie will round out the 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 will feature musical direction by Ron Colvard, additional choreography by Bob Richard and restaged choreography by James Vasquez. The Grinch creative team will also include 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) and David Krane (dance music arranger).

The fifth annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place Nov. 21 at 6 PM on the Globe's Copley Plaza. The tree is designed by *Grinch* scenic designer John Lee Beatty, and will be located in the center of the Globe Plaza and will remain for the run of the show. This family event will feature a 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. 21 performance at 4:30 PM.

The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way.

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### Old Globe's 13th Annual *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* Begins Nov. 20

By *Thomas Peter*  
20 Nov 2010



Shea Starrs Siben and Jeff Skowron  
Photo by Craig Schwartz

The Old Globe's 13th annual production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* begins its run at the acclaimed San Diego regional theatre Nov. 20 with an official opening set for Nov. 26. Performances play to Dec. 26.

James Vasquez directs a cast led by Jeff Skowron, returning for a second year as the green-fur-covered anti-Christmas character. The cast also features Logan Lipton (Young Max), Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Remy Margaret Corbin and Shea Starrs Siben (Cindy-Lou Who), Melinda Gilb (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), Phil Johnson (Grandpa Who), Emma Ford and Skylar Starrs Siben (Annie Who), Samantha Wang and Julia Way (Betty-Lou Who), Leif Erik Isaacson and Dylan Nalbandian (Boo Who) and Trevor Juliano Lermaand Lane Palhegyi (Danny Who).

Aaron Acosta, Liam James Brandt, Felicity Bryant, Dominique Castillo, Courtney Corey, Randall Dodge, Madeline Edwards, Anna George, Kyle J. Jackson, Samantha Littleford, Allison Ma, Kurt Norby, Karyn Overstreet, Lou Francine Rasse, Emma Rasse and Anise Ritchie round out the 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 Ron Colvard, additional choreography by Bob Richard and restaged choreography 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) and David Krane (dance music arranger).

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The fifth annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place Nov. 21 at 6 PM on the Globe's Copley Plaza. The tree is designed by *Grinch* scenic designer John Lee Beatty, and will be located in the center of the Globe Plaza and will remain for the run of the show. This family event will feature a 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. 21 performance at 4:30 PM.

The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. Visit [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org).

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Jeff Skowron and company  
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## Photo Flash: HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS at the Old Globe



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Wednesday, November 24, 2010; Posted: 07:11 PM - by [BWW Photo Special](#)

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[Jeff Skowron](#) returns as the Grinch in the Globe's 13th annual production of [Dr. Seuss'](#) How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Skowron made his Globe debut as the Grinch in last season's production. The annual holiday musical, directed by [James Vasquez](#) with book and lyrics by [Timothy Mason](#) and music by [Mel Marvin](#), will run in the [Old Globe Theatre](#) Nov. 20 - Dec. 26. Previews run from Nov. 20 - Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Performances are restricted to children three years and up except for the 11:00 a.m. performances for which tickets can be purchased for children of all ages. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for children and 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 13th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "Santa for a Day," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome, Christmas 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.

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 Restaged Choreography 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 and [Leila Knox](#) Stage Manager.

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. 20 and continue through Dec. 26. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for children 17 years and under. Performance times: Previews: Saturday, Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 21 at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 26 at 2:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesday - Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Additional performances: Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 23 at 2:00 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 24 at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. there is no 7:00 p.m. performance that day. There are no performances on Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 3, 8 or 9 and Christmas, Dec. 25.

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

CALENDAR: Brighton Beach Memoirs and Broadway Bound 9/14-11/7, Welcome to Arroyo's 9/25-10/31, The Winter's Tale 11/7-11/14, [Dr. Seuss'](#) How The Grinch Stole Christmas! 11/20-12/26, [Jane Austen's](#) Emma - A Musical Romantic Comedy 1/15-2/27, Death of a Salesman 1/22-2/27.

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

The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is one of the country's leading professional regional theaters and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 75 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 people attend Globe productions annually and participate in the theater's education and community programs. Numerous world premieres such as The Full Monty, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, A Catered Affair and the annual holiday musical [Dr. Seuss'](#) How the Grinch Stole Christmas! have been developed at [The Old Globe](#) and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs on Broadway and at regional theaters across the country.

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## Jeff Skowron to Star in Old Globe's Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

By: **Andy Propst** · Oct 1, 2010 · San Diego

Jeff Skowron will reprise his portrayal of the title character of the **Old Globe Theatre's** 13th annual production of **Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!**, to run November 20 - December 26. James Vasquez will direct the production.

With book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the show, conceived and originally directed by Jack O'Brien and choreographed by John DeLuca, brings to the stage Dr. Seuss' classic children's story about a mean creature that tries to ruin Christmas for the denizens of Whoville. Complete casting will be announced at a later date.

Skowron's Broadway credits include *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Enron*, *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *High Society*. Among his film and television credits are *New York City Serenade*, *The Narrows*, *The Good Shepherd*, and *Mary and Rhoda*, as well as all of the incarnations of *Law & Order*.

The creative team will include Ron Colvard (music direction), Bob Richard (additional choreography), John Lee Beatty (scenic design), Robert Morgan (costume design), Pat Collins (lighting design), and Paul Peterson (sound design).



Jeff Skowron in *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*  
(© Craig Schwartz)



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» **Old Globe Announces Full Cast for Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!** [Theater News](#)

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FIVE LIVE: What To Do This Weekend (11/24/10)

*Steve Poltz, The Steely Damned and The Grinch***by Josh Board**

Posted on Wed, Nov 24th, 2010

Last updated Tue, Nov 23rd, 2010

Don't be a turkey on the turkey day weekend.



November 26: Steve Poltz at Anthology.

Courtesy photo

Support the local music scene, instead of sitting home eating and splitting your seam.

**November 24 – 28: Dixieland Jazz Festival****Where: Town and Country Resort****Tickets: \$15 - \$40/military and kids 13 and under free**

Who doesn't love seeing Dixieland jazz bands at the county fair, or strolling down Main Street at Disneyland? This festival gets Dixieland jazz fans from all over the world here, so if you're a fan, or even just a bit curious – this might be the event for you. It's like Comic-Con for trumpet players. You'll get Dixieland, ragtime, and swing. Some rooms will have bigger concerts with dance floors, and the smaller ones are being utilized as listening rooms. Some of the performers include local musical genius Sue Palmer, with her Motel Swing Orchestra, Billy Mata and the Texas Tradition, as well as Tom Rigney & Flambeau. (*more info: 619-297-5277*)

**November 24: The Steely Damned****Where: Humphreys Backstage Lounge****Tickets: \$20**

Your initial thought might be that twenty bones is a bit pricy to see a local band you can see at other venues cheaper. Heck, they often play the San Diego County Fair for free. Two things, though. First, this is a band with a huge horn section and many local musicians. I'm guessing even with a big cover they aren't getting rich playing a show like this. Second, and more important – if you have relatives in from out of town, you can only go to the Zoo and Sea World so many times (and how expensive is Sea World?) You can take them to see this *Steely Dan* tribute band, and listen to a wonderful blend of jazz and rock, while taking in a scenic view of the boats on the bay that are clearly visible from most seats in the place. They're playing from 8:00 – midnight, so you can get there any time in the evening. If you're there from 5–7 p.m., you get half off drinks and food. (*more info: 619-224-3577*)

**November 26: Karl Denson's Tiny Universe****Where: Belly Up Tavern****Tickets: \$20**

The show opens with *Orgone*, an LA band that blends DJs, funk, jazz, afrobeats, and lots of soul. Karl Denson is arguably the biggest name local in the jazz scene. The former Lenny Kravitz and Greyball Allstar, will be bringin' his funky jazz grooves to the

B.U.T., a venue that seems to have the perfect acoustics for their jazzy funk. All the early birds will get to see bawdy local songstress *Candye Kane* doing a happy hour show at 5:30. (*more info: 858-481-8140*)

**November 26 – December 26: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

**Where:** Old Globe Theatre/Balboa Park

**Tickets:** \$39 - \$77 adults/\$20 -- \$57 children

This Saturday night is the preview show, and if you got grumpy seeing Christmas decorations up before Thanksgiving took place – maybe seeing the Grinch this early is right up your alley. This play has been at the *Old Globe* before (first time being back in 1998). And in the lead role is Jeff Skowron, who's returning (not to be confused with a hapless Whos). In fact, many of the past Grinch performers are back at it again. You may have been disappointed with the Jim Carey/Ron Howard film version, but hearing these humorous songs live on the stage will surely put you in the holiday mood. (*more info: 619-234-5623*)

**November 26: Steve Poltz/Tim Flannery**

**Where:** Anthology

**Tickets:** \$7 - \$33 (\$15 drink or food minimum)

There's probably no better time to catch local legend Steve Poltz than on Black Friday, the busiest shopping day of the year. Instead of being pushed and shoved, or trampled at Wal-Mart – listen to Poltz spin a clever yarn. It's a lot more interesting than the usual *Alice's Restaurant* over and over. You know his credentials: wrote some hits with Jewel, founding member of *The Rugburns*, and one of the best interviews you'll hear if you catch him on any of the local radio or TV shows. I still think about a time he combined a story and songs, of *Chinese Vacation* and *You Were Meant For Me*, into what was one of the funniest things I've ever heard on the local airwaves. Former Padre Tim Flannery will be opening. The former Kentucky man won't have a Louisville Slugger in his hands, but an acoustic guitar. Maybe he'll be wearing the World Series ring he just got coaching with the Giants. He'll be doing songs from his latest record *Travellin' Shoes*. Poltz will be doing tunes from *Dreamhouse*, which was released earlier this year. Hear those stories live instead of sitting home eating left-over turkey. (*more info: 877-828-0891*)

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## The Grinch is back!

October 1st, 2010 6:17 pm PT



Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in the 2009 production of Dr. Seuss' 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' at The Old Globe. The annual holiday musical will run Nov. 20 - Dec. 26, 2010.  
*Photo: Craig Schwartz*

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Jeff Skowron will return as the Grinch in the Globe's 13th annual production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Skowron made his Globe debut as the Grinch in last season's production. The annual holiday musical, directed by James Vasquez with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre Nov. 20 – Dec. 26. Previews run from Nov. 20 – Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Performances are restricted to children three years and up except for the 11:00 a.m. performances for which tickets can be purchased for children of all ages. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for children and can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://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 13th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "Santa for a Day," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome, Christmas (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.

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 Restaged Choreography 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) and Leila Knox (Stage Manager). The complete cast will be announced at a later date.

Jeff Skowron is no stranger to Grinch, having performed in both the 2007 and 2008 Broadway productions. He is co-creator and co-star with Matt Yeager of the popular web series "Greg and Donny," which recently won the top honor at the 2010 New York Television Festival: a development deal with the Independent Film Channel ([www.greganddonny.com](http://www.greganddonny.com)). His Broadway credits include *Enron* (Trader), *The Lion King* (Ed, Timon, Zazu), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lefou), *High Society* (Stanley) and the workshop of *The Boy From Oz* (playing Chris Bell opposite Hugh Jackman). Skowron has appeared Off Broadway in *Debbie Does Dallas* and *Zombie Prom*. His regional credits include *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 Company. Film



# san diego

## Community News

Published Thursday, 07-Oct-2010 in [issue 1189](#)

### Get ready Hillcrest, to have your world rocked with delicious food

#### and entertainment!

Eden, the enlightened lovechild of ChileCo Catering's Chef Scotty Wagner and NightlifeSD's David Laurent comes to life on October 28, 2010, as the power duo unveil the reinvented Hillcrest entertainment complex on the corner of University and Vermont. Guests are invited to indulge in Eden's earthly delights and will be able to enjoy the freshest local fares from the restaurant's globally inspired menu.

Colorful, casual and contemporary, the restaurant at Eden will be a reflection of the surrounding community. With a focus on providing guests with the highest quality food that is representative of what's fresh, local and seasonal, Chef Scotty's menu offerings are sure to titillate even the most discerning taste buds. Through Eden's commitment to uncompromised customer service and a desire to provide an uninhibited dining experience, the restaurant strives to achieve a level of class without pretention.

"Eden was motivated by my desire to support sustainable agriculture and local farmers," says Chef Scotty Wagner, "The venue's multi-faceted, open and adaptable environment has inspired me as well. Here at Eden, the opportunities are endless."



Congratulations to Gossip Grill Management and Staff on their 1 Year Anniversary!

### Jeff Skowron returns as The Grinch in The Old Globe's 13th Annual production of Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas

#### Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Set for Sunday, Nov. 21

**Jeff Skowron will return as the Grinch in the Globe's 13th annual production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Skowron made his Globe debut as the Grinch in last season's production. The annual holiday musical, directed by James Vasquez with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre Nov. 20 – Dec. 26. Previews run from Nov. 20 – Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

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The fifth annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday, Nov. 21 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 will 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 are included with the tickets to the Nov. 21 performance at 4:30 p.m.

### San Diego County Library Book Festival features keynote speaker Richard Dreyfuss

On October 9 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., the Encinitas library, located at 540 Cornish Dr, is hosting the San Diego County Library Book Festival. The all-ages event will host popular authors, discussion panels, free entertainment and activities, as well as local food vendors. At 10:30 a.m. a keynote address will be given by Richard Dreyfuss, Oscar-winning actor and founder of the Dreyfuss Initiative, which pushes for greater civics education.

Dreyfuss, well known for his roles in "Jaws" and "Mr. Holland's Opus," will be speaking on the Dreyfuss Initiative, which promotes exercises in reason, logic, clarity of thought, and critical analysis. The Initiative seeks to educate teachers and administrators on the best way to teach civics through history, in order to raise children capable of governing the United States. The curriculum changes for each grade level, providing children with an age-appropriate understanding of the topic. More information can be found at [www.thedreyfussinitiative.org](http://www.thedreyfussinitiative.org).

The San Diego County Library Book Festival is a free, fun-filled day of literacy and entertainment. For more information, contact the Encinitas library at (760) 753-7376 or visit [www.sdcl.org/bookfestival](http://www.sdcl.org/bookfestival).

### 9th Annual Turnabout at Bacchus House

The 9th Annual Turnabout, benefit for the Center will be held at Bacchus House, 3054 University Avenue, San Diego on October 16th. See your favorite bar staff in drag. Showtime is 9:30 p.m. and features DJ Jon Williams. The event is hosted by Coco Lachine. Have some fun and come and support this great event.

### Historic Birch North Park Theatre gets a New Marquee

#### Vertical sign adds crowning touch to historic theatre restoration with a design that replicates the original sign

When the historic Birch North Park Theatre lights up on October 8, it will reflect a distinct part of the theatre's history – with a new vertical "North Park" marquee that is true to the original design. To mark the return of this illustrious piece of the past, a community unveiling ceremony will be held earlier the same day.

The new marquee is part of additional rehabilitation and improvements being made to the historic landmark as part of the North Park Theatre Rehabilitation Project. Funding was made possible through a \$162,918 loan from the City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency to theatre owner and manager, Lyric Opera San Diego. Originally built in 1928, the 730-seat theater was restored to its former glory and reopened in October 2005.

"The Birch North Park Theatre is a special part of our City's history," said Mayor Sanders. "Its continued operation supports both local arts and the North Park community as a whole." Mayor Sanders also serves as the Redevelopment Agency's executive director.

In addition to the new marquee, improvements to the box office fire alarm, bathroom sinks, and installation of a gate at the west alley have been completed. Upgrades to the theatre's HVAC system and electric meter room, basement waterproofing, replacement of basement and office flooring, and wheelchair lift improvements to meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements are currently underway.

"The Birch North Park Theatre is a community gem," said Councilmember Todd Gloria. "These improvements help preserve and maintain the theatre, reduce operating costs, and enhance the appeal of this beautiful building to patrons and the community alike. We are all proud of the vibrancy Birch North Park Theater brings to the

neighborhood."

Located at 2891 University Avenue, the Birch North Theatre has served as the Lyric Opera's home since 2005. This year the organization celebrates its 32nd anniversary of bringing accessible, affordable opera and musical theatre productions to San Diego.

The company proudly performs operas and musicals from the European and American tradition, in English, presenting the finest young musical talent available with full orchestra and chorus accompaniment at the Birch North Park Theatre.

"We are very pleased to finally see the face of the North Park Theatre restored to its original glory. This is a moment the community has been waiting for - for a long time," said Leon Natker, general director for Lyric.

In addition to Lyric's regular season performances, the theatre hosts dozens of performing arts and civic events each year for a wide variety of organizations, from schools and churches to dance companies, theatre groups, film clubs and concert promoters. More information about the theatre can be found at [www.birchnorthparktheatre.net/](http://www.birchnorthparktheatre.net/).

The project was completed with funds made available through North Park Redevelopment Project Area 2003 Series A taxable bond proceeds and from existing non-housing tax increment generated in the North Park Redevelopment Project Area. The North Park Theater marquee unveiling will take place October 8, beginning at 12:30 p.m., followed by a theatre tour.

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Home / Entertainment / Entertainment Columnists / Pam Kragen: Backstage

## BACKSTAGE: DEVO cancels Solana Beach concert following musician's hand injury

- Story
- Discussion

BACKSTAGE: DEVO cancels Solana Beach concert following musician's hand injury

By PAM KRAGEN - pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times - Californian | Posted: Wednesday, October 27, 2010 9:30 am  
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DEVO, the '80s New Wave quintet that was scheduled to play an \$89 show on Nov. 10 at the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach, has canceled that gig and several others, after guitarist Bob Mothersbaugh suffered a serious hand injury Tuesday.

Warner Brothers Records announced Wednesday morning that Mothersbaugh cut his right thumb to the bone on a glass shard and needed emergency surgery. The group has canceled the Solana Beach concert, along with upcoming concerts at L.A.'s Club Nokia and San Francisco's Warfield Theater. All three dates will be rescheduled, mostly likely next spring.

DEVO will still appear Friday at MoogFest in Asheville, N.C. The group will receive the first-ever Moog Innovation Award from Moog Music. The award celebrates artists whose genre-defying work exemplifies the bold, innovative spirit of Bob Moog, creator of the synthesizer that bears his name.

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North County's Valley View Casino will soon have a much higher profile.

Operators of the San Pasqual Indian tribe's Valley Center casino have purchased the naming rights for the San Diego Sports Arena, that beginning Monday will be officially known as the Valley View Casino Center. Just how long the arena will bear the Valley View name, and how much the San Pasqual tribe paid for the rights, was not disclosed, except that it is a "multiyear" agreement.

Also next month, the tribe will open a hotel adjacent to its casino property. On Nov. 19, the hotel (for ages 21 and up only) will debut, featuring 108 rooms, 96 deluxe rooms and 12 luxury suites.

---

The Old Globe is doubling up on its holiday-themed entertainment this fall. Besides presenting its 13th annual production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" Nov. 20-Dec. 26, the Globe will also stage the musical "Plaid Tidings" Nov. 27-Dec. 26 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

"Plaid Tidings" is a holiday version of Stuart Ross' long-running musical "Forever Plaid," which was first presented at the Old Globe in 1991.

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If you like the new "Elephant Odyssey" exhibit at the San Diego Zoo, you're not alone. The \$45 million enclosure that opened at the Balboa Park zoo last spring has been honored in the category of Significant Achievement in Exhibit Design" by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

The 7.5-acre exhibit is home to more than 35 animal species and it traces the evolution of elephants and other species from the Pleistocene epoch (when woolly mammoths and saber-toothed tigers roamed the region) to today. The exhibit includes a 2.5-acre elephant habitat, a 137,000-gallon pool, rolling hills and a half-acre elephant care center.

The zoo's marketing department was also honored for its promotional efforts.

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Kurt Swann, the longtime host of the monthly Carlsbad comedy show "West Coast Follies," recently took fourth place in the 35th annual San Francisco Comedy Competition, a contest that over the years that helped launch the careers of Ellen Degeneres, Dana Carvey, Dane Cook, Sinbad and Rob Schneider.

The annual contest draws hundreds of comedians from all over the country, from which 30 finalists are chosen. After performing 12 shows in 12 venues, the field was narrowed to five (including Swann) and in the final showdown, he finished fourth (the winner was Auggie Smith of Portland, Ore.).

Although he didn't win the top prize, Swann is in good company. Other finalists who also failed to finish on top include Robin Williams, Roseanne Barr, Bobcat Goldthwait, DL Hughley and Ellen Degeneres.

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The San Diego Natural History Museum has debuted another water-themed nature film on its large-format screen, and once again it's the work of San Diego-based Summerhays Films.

San Diego filmmaker Soames Summerhays produced the new film "Turtle Reef 3D," which began screening Oct. 16 at the museum. The new film alternates daily with two other films, including "Ocean Oasis," which was also produced by Summerhays Films.

"Turtle Reef 3D" chronicles the interactions between the creatures on a coral reef in Hawaii during a 24-hour period. The 20-minute film is now screening three times a day at 11 a.m., 1:45 and 3:15 p.m.

"It is such a pleasure to once again have the opportunity of working with so many of our friends and colleagues at the (museum) in this project," Summerhays said in a statement. "This film will raise awareness about the magnificent forms of life, the intricate balance between them, and ultimately, the relationship we have with coral reefs."

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Showtimes have been announced for the San Diego engagement of the "Radio City Christmas Spectacular," which plays Dec. 3 through 5 at the San Diego Sports Arena (which, as mentioned above, becomes the Valley View Casino Center next week).

The touring edition of the Rockettes' annual holiday show at Radio City Music Hall in Manhattan will be presented at 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 3, 1, 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 4, and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Dec. 5. For tickets and other details, visit [radiocitychristmas.com/nationaltour/](http://radiocitychristmas.com/nationaltour/).

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Classic musicals and comedies and a world premiere musical are on tap for Lamb's Players Theatre's just-announced 2011 season.

The Coronado-based theater company's five-show season runs Feb. 4 through Nov. 20, 2011. Here's an overview:

"The Music Man" - Feb. 4-March 20. Meredith Willson's 1957 musical is the story of a rail-riding con man who meets his match in River City, Iowa.

"Steel Magnolias" - April 1-May 15. Robert Harling's popular drama is the story of four Southern women who share life's highs and lows at a Georgia beauty salon.

"Servant of Two Masters" - May 27-July 10. Former Lamb's staffer David McFadzean (creator of TV's "Home Improvement") returns with his world premiere musical adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's classic Italian comedy about mistaken identity and young love at a Venetian inn.

"Trying" - July 22-Sept. 4. First seen in 2006 at the Old Globe, Joanna McClelland Glass' drama is based on her real-life experiences as personal secretary to the elderly Judge Frances Biddle, who served both as U.S. attorney general to Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II and as presiding judge at the Nuremberg trials.

"The Book of the Dun Cow" - Oct. 7-Nov. 20. Lamb's staffers Kerry Meads, Robert Smyth and Deborah Gilmour Smyth first adapted Walter Wangerin's Newberry Award-winning children's story for the stage more than 20 years ago. It's the story of a group of barnyard animals, including Chauntecleer the Rooster, Mundo Canio Dog and the mysterious Dun Cow, who band together to fight the evil that has entered their world.

In addition to its regular season, the company announced it will also produce three non-subscription shows as an extra for



theatergoers, including a revival of C.S. Lewis's "Till We Have Faces (a retelling of the Psyche and Cupid myth) Sept. 9-25; and its annual "Festival of Christmas and "An American Christmas" productions.

Subscriptions are now on sale at [lambplayers.org](http://lambplayers.org) or call 619-437-6000.

Pam Kragen is the entertainment editor of the North County Times.

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Posted in Kragen on *Wednesday, October 27, 2010 9:30 am* Updated: 10:14 am. | Tags: Nct, Entertainment Preview, Columns, Pam Kragen,

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# san DIEGO

## Joy to the World

*Holiday events turn city by the sea into a winter wonderland*

**A**lready one of the nation's favorite vacation spots for its mild climate, San Diego is gearing up to be a sunny version of a winter wonderland this holiday season. Even the locals are excited about what awaits visitors to the city.

"I'll be able to see the parade of lights from my penthouse!" exclaimed Lola Raggio, who, with her husband, Raoul, recently

purchased a top-floor condo in a San Diego high-rise.

Lola Raggio was referring to the 39th annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights that will take place this year on Dec. 12 and 19, with more than 100 lighted and decorated boats sailing in San Diego Bay. Following the two parades, fireworks shows will illuminate the sky, so the lucky couple will get a double treat.

"We are in a great loca-

tion," said Lola Raggio.

"Our condo is within walking distance of lots of the holiday activities in Seaport Village, Horton Plaza and other places."

Indeed, there are lots of holiday and winter events in San Diego running through the New Year. Here are just a few of the many:

This year, things start revving up on Nov. 27 when Surfing Santa arrives at Seaport Village, a charming New England-style esplanade on the bay. To celebrate his arrival, a holiday parade takes place along the boardwalk. Things get pretty festive, with stilt walkers (possibly North Pole elves trying to be a little taller?), live music and a tree-lighting ceremony. For details, visit [www.seaportvillage.com/holidays](http://www.seaportvillage.com/holidays).

Perhaps San Diego's most anticipated event is the annual Balboa Park December Nights on Dec. 3 (beginning at 5 p.m.) and Dec. 4 (beginning at noon). Besides the beautiful décor and lights that enhance the grand museums, the Old Globe Theatre and the park itself, there are many other reasons to enjoy December Nights.

Longstanding traditions include: the International Christmas Festival at the House of Pacific Relations Cottages, where foods



Throughout the holidays, Hotel del Coronado offers outdoor ice skating.

from around the world are available; the Santa Lucia Procession at the San Diego Museum of Man; gift shopping for unique items at the museum stores and artisan-made gifts at Spanish Village; and musical and dance presentations from the San Diego Junior Theatre and the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet. Participating Balboa Park museums open their doors free of charge from 5 to 9 p.m. both evenings. For more information, visit [www.balboapark.org](http://www.balboapark.org).

Remember driving around the old neighborhood for hours on end with mom and dad to see the lights? Well, the city of Del Mar, just minutes north of San Diego, has streamlined the fun.

The Holiday of Lights

at Del Mar, which takes place nightly from Nov. 25 through Jan. 2, 2011 at Del Mar Fairgrounds, is one of the largest animated drive-through light shows on the West Coast, with more than 400 displays. For further information, visit [www.sdfair.com/holidayoflights](http://www.sdfair.com/holidayoflights).

Who doesn't want an island holiday? Well you won't have to go to Tahiti! Just south of downtown San Diego, Coronado hosts a grand Holiday Celebration Dec. 3. First, Santa arrives by ferry at the Coronado Ferry Landing. A parade along Orange Avenue follows, and merchants keep their doors open late for shopping. Santa lights a 75-foot-high star pine Christmas tree in the center of town while a band

plays holiday music. The evening finishes with fireworks over Glorietta Bay.

For a truly California experience, head to the ice rink with Pacific Ocean views at the Hotel del Coronado ([www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com)). The hotel offers outdoor ice skating on its famous Windsor Lawn from late November through the first of January.

The Mission Bay Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 18 promises to be bigger than ever, with more than 100 illuminated powerboats and sailboats parading in Mission Bay and culminating with a fireworks show at 9 p.m. over SeaWorld San Diego.

For more details, visit [www.missionbayparadeoflights.org](http://www.missionbayparadeoflights.org).

Other activities you might want to include on your itinerary are the classic "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" at the Old Globe theater in Balboa Park from Nov. 20 to Dec. 26; "The Nutcracker" presented by the California Ballet at the Civic Theatre on Dec. 18, 19 and 21; and Old Town's Fiesta Navidad on Dec. 12 and 13, where guests learn about holiday celebrations in the 1800s.

And, for those who think the holiday season is going to the dogs, they're right! That's why so many people flock to the historic Gaslamp Quarter for the Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade on Dec. 12, when pets and their human owners get all decked out in Santa outfits.

— Carla White  
Special Advertising Sections Writer



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## San Diego Blog



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### **[The Globe's 13th Annual Production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas: Opens November 27](#)**

November 1, 2010 in [Upcoming Events](#) by [Ramona Quincey](#)

Jeff Skowron will return as the Grinch in the Globe's 13th annual production of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Skowron made his Globe debut as the Grinch in last season's production. The annual holiday musical, directed by James Vasquez with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre Nov. 20 – Dec. 26. Previews run from Nov. 20 – Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 26 at 7:00 p.m.



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Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for its 13th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "Santa for a Day," "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome, Christmas (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.

Tags: [Balboa Park](#), [How the Grinch Stole Christmas!](#), [Old Globe](#), [theater](#)  
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# PRESIDIO SENTINEL

November 2010

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## THEATRE IN SAN DIEGO



*Jeff Skowron as The Grinch in the 2009 production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! at The Old Globe. The annual holiday musical will run Nov. 20 - Dec. 26, 2010. Photo by Craig Schwartz.*

### Old Globe

Jeff Skowron will return as the Grinch in the Globe's 13th annual production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Skowron made his Globe debut as the Grinch in last season's production. The annual holiday musical, directed by James Vasquez with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre Nov. 20 - Dec. 26. Previews run from Nov. 20 - Nov. 26. Opening night is Nov. 26 at 7 p.m.

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# backpage



For 13 years, the Old Globe's holiday sensation *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has been an incubator for young talent in San Diego. For more on local kids whose theatrical stars are rising, see page 42. In the meantime, here's Whoville: a cast photo from the Globe's very first production of the *Grinch* in 1997.

Photo courtesy The Old Globe



[Dr. Seuss' 'Grinch' will have hearts soaring on San Diego stage «](#)

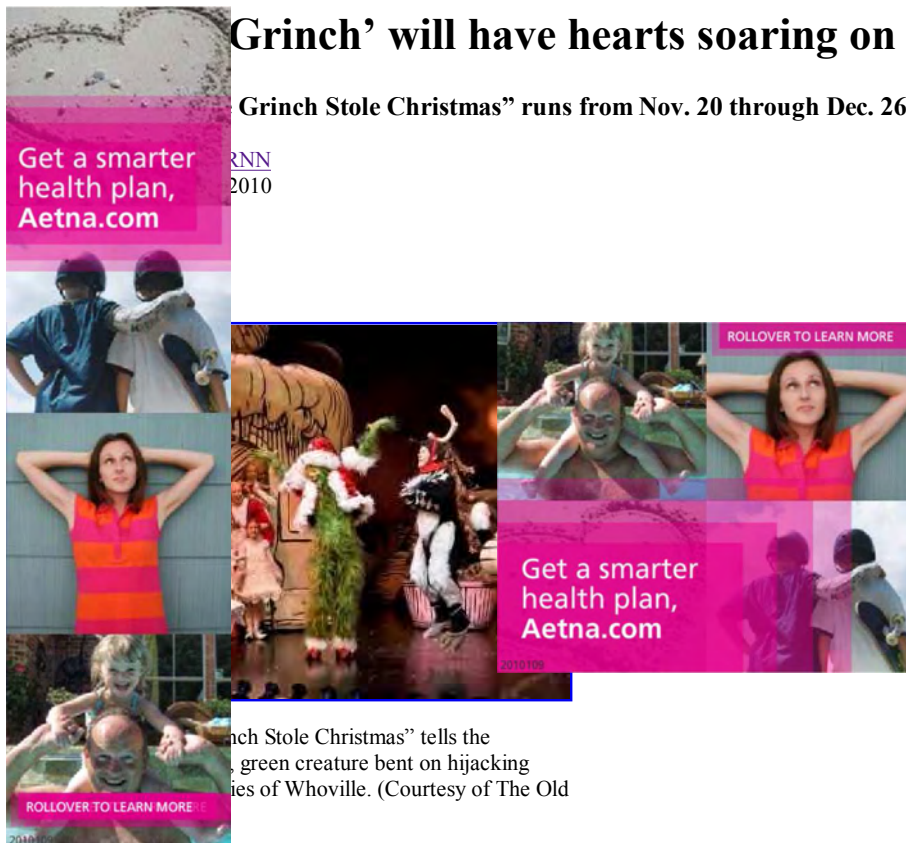


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## Grinch' will have hearts soaring on San Diego stage

"Grinch Stole Christmas" runs from Nov. 20 through Dec. 26 at The Old Globe Theater in San Diego.



"Grinch Stole Christmas" tells the whimsical tale of a mean, green creature bent on hijacking Christmas from the families of Whoville. (Courtesy of The Old Globe Theatre)

Who doesn't have a little bit of "Grinch" in them at Christmas time?

Families of every age and stage are invited to join in one of the most beloved holiday theater traditions of the season when San Diego's Old Globe Theatre brings the splendid wickedness of the Grinch to life.

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" tells the 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 with a set, props and costumes following the crazy, wavy lines of Geisel's original illustrations.

Directed by James Vasquez 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.

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" runs from Nov. 20 through Dec. 26 at The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

For tickets or to learn more, visit [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org) or call 619- 23-GLOBE.

Kerri S. Mabee can be reached at [ksmabee.swrnn@gmail.com](mailto:ksmabee.swrnn@gmail.com) with comments or questions. Follow me on Twitter at SWRNNaelife.

# Old Globe's 13th Annual How the Grinch Stole Christmas Begins Nov. 20



The Old Globe's 13th annual production of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* begins its run at the acclaimed San Diego regional theatre Nov. 20 with an official opening set for Nov. 26. Performances play to Dec. 26.

James Vasquez directs a cast led by Jeff Skowron, returning for a second year as the green-fur-covered anti-Christmas character. The cast also features Logan Lipton (Young Max), Martin Van Treuren (Old Max), Remy Margaret Corbin and Shea Starrs Siben (Cindy-Lou Who), Melinda Gilb (Mama Who), Steve Gunderson (Papa Who), Eileen Bowman (Grandma Who), Phil Johnson (Grandpa Who), Emma Ford and Skylar Starrs Siben (Annie Who), Samantha Wang and Julia Way (Betty-Lou Who), Leif Erik Isaacson and Dylan Nalbandian (Boo Who) and Trevor Juliano Lerma and Lane Palhegyi (Danny Who).

Aaron Acosta, Liam James Brandt, Felicity Bryant, Dominique Castillo, Courtney Corey, Randall Dodge, Madeline Edwards, Anna George, Kyle J. Jackson, Samantha Littleford, Allison Ma, Kürt Norby, Karyn Overstreet, Lou Francine Rasse, Emma Rasse and Anise Ritchie round out the 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 Ron Colvard, additional choreography by Bob Richard and restaged choreography 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) and David Krane (dance music arranger).

The fifth annual Globe Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place Nov. 21 at 6 PM on the Globe's Copley Plaza. The tree is designed by Grinch scenic designer John Lee Beatty, and will be located in the center of the Globe Plaza and will remain for the run of the show. This family event will feature a 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. 21 performance at 4:30 PM.

The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. Visit [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org).





read more : <http://www.playbill.com/news/article/145121-Old-Globes-13th-Annual-How-the-Grinch-Stole-Christmas-Begins-Nov-20>

## 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas', 'Shrek' on tap tonight

Rex Huffman's TV picks:

- The Cleveland Cavaliers are in the Big Easy to take on the New Orleans Hornets in an NBA contest airing at 8 on Fox Sports Network Ohio (seen on cable Channel 36).
- On tonight's episode of ABC's "Supernanny," Jo helps a couple with five unruly children who often play around the family's unfenced swimming pool. "Supernanny" airs at 8 on WEWS-TV Channel 5.
- Get in the holiday spirit with "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," airing at 8 on TBS (cable Channel 22). Boris Karloff narrates this animated tale about a curmudgeon and the merry residents of Whoville who annoy him.
- "The Grinch" is followed at 8:30 by "Shrek," the 2001 animated box office hit. In order to save his home, an ogre (the voice of Mike Myers) with a donkey (Eddie Murphy) makes a deal with a mean lord to rescue a beautiful princess (Cameron Diaz).
- Tune to Fox at 9 for "The Good Guys." Tonight, while following up on a stolen truck investigation, Jack and Dan uncover a major heist involving a shipment of high-profile diamonds. Also, Dan discovers that Jack is interviewing for a position on an elite police unit. "The Good Guys" airs on WJW-Channel 8.
- Tonight's episode of "Outrageous Food" features a 7-pound deli sandwich; heart and brain black pudding and pig face; and jumbo ice-cream sundaes to wash it all down. "Outrageous Food" airs at 10 on the Food Network (cable Channel 46).

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### HOLIDAYS: Seasonal Theater Happenings

*From The Nutcracker to The Grinch, San Diego offers year-end stage delights*

**by Robin Dohrn-Simpson**

Posted on Mon, Dec 6th, 2010

Last updated Mon, Dec 6th, 2010

The Holiday season is in full swing. Treat yourself and your children to an experience you can all enjoy; live theater.



Plaid Tidings at The Old Globe.

Courtesy photo

San Diego is fortunate to have a stocking full of theater options. These productions will leave you smiling, whistling and tapping your toes. Here is a just a sample of holiday productions planned.

#### “A Taffeta Christmas”

Four talented ladies are featured on a weekly television show called “Hometown Hoedown” in Muncie Indiana in the 1950’s. Come hear your favorite holiday songs in this joint production between Onstage Playhouse and Pickwick Players.

Performances will be held both in Chula Vista, Onstage Playhouse on December 2- 5 and San Diego, Moxie Theater in the College area, on Dec. 10 – 12. For details see:

[www.pickwickplayers.net](http://www.pickwickplayers.net/) (<http://www.pickwickplayers.net/>)

#### “An American Christmas”

Try something a little different at this five-course holiday dinner and show. Chef John Shelton and his talented culinary team will titillate your taste buds with a gourmet meal in the Hotel Del Coronado ballroom, while the talented cast will welcome you into the Marshall family’s home. Go back 100 years in time to experience a magical era in American Christmas traditions with music, dance and laughter. Lambs Players Theater (with the Hotel Del Coronado), Dec. 12- 26. For details see: [www.lambsplayers.org](http://www.lambsplayers.org/) (<http://www.lambsplayers.org/>)

#### “An Unscripted Carol”

If you enjoy unscripted theater this show is for you. Join the performers from the Improv Theater of Los Angeles as they work without script to create character, plot and staging all at once. The show will never be the same twice. You’ll see A Christmas Carol in a whole new light: improv. North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Dec. 20 – 21. For details see: [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org/) (<http://www.northcoastrep.org/>)

#### “Big Band Christmas”

Set the time machine back to the 1940’s and gather around the wireless. Reminisce with favorite Christmas classics by Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw and Tommy Dorsey along with others on this sentimental journey. Welk Resorts Theatre in Escondido, through Dec. 31. For details see: [www.welktheatersandiego.com](http://www.welktheatersandiego.com/) (<http://www.welktheatersandiego.com/>)

#### Dave Koz and Friends: A Smooth Jazz Christmas 2010



Join Dave and friends at the newly remodeled Balboa Theatre adjacent to Horton Plaza. South African singer and guitarist Jonathan Butler, keyboardist Brian Culbertson, and saxophonist Candy Dulfer have prepared an evening of jazz celebration. This is an evening for all ages to enjoy. Civic Theater (at Balboa Theatre), Dec. 10. For details see: [www.sdcivic.org](http://www.sdcivic.org) (<http://www.sdcivic.org/>)

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

The Old Globe transforms itself into Whoville for this beloved production. Cindy-Lou Who will steal your heart just as she stole the Grinch's. People of all ages are welcome to enjoy the Grinch and Dr. Seuss' cast of characters. Old Globe Theatre, through Dec. 26. For details see: [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org) (<http://www.theoldglobe.org/>)

#### **"Home for the Holidays"**

Orchestra Nova, a new concept orchestra directed by Jung-ho Pak performs traditional Christmas music with the Center Chorale and the North Coast Singers. You must experience this new orchestra; it takes the classics to a new level. California Center for the Arts in Escondido, Dec. 19. For details see: [www.artcenter.org](http://www.artcenter.org) (<http://www.artcenter.org/>)

#### **"How do you spell Chanukah?"**

Is it Hanukkah or Chanukah? Enjoy this Jewish alternative to the Holiday Fare with fun, music and storytelling. Oy! North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Dec. 3- 5. For details see: [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) (<http://www.northcoastrep.org/>)

#### **"It's a Wonderful Life!"**

Try something really different. This lively radio-on-stage production is an adaptation of a Christmas film classic. The theater audience becomes studio guests in this story of love and redemption. Welk Resorts Theatre in Escondido, through Dec. 30. For details see: [www.welktheatersandiego.com](http://www.welktheatersandiego.com) (<http://www.welktheatersandiego.com/>)

#### **"Mistletoe, Music and Mayhem"**

This holiday cabaret show features four performers with comedy scenarios mixed with holiday inspired songs. North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Dec. 16- 19. For details see: [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) (<http://www.northcoastrep.org/>)

#### **"Plaid Tidings- A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid"**

Those lovable dorks are back from yesteryear for this holiday musical of hits from the '50s and '60s. Join the talented foursome as they dazzle you with Christmas music all wrapped up in plaid, proving you can never have too much plaid. Old Globe Theatre, through Dec. 26. For details see: [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org) (<http://www.theoldglobe.org/>)

#### **"Sister's Christmas Catechism"**

In this holiday mystery, Sister tackles the age old question "What happened to the Magi's gold?" North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Dec. 22. For details see: [www.northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) (<http://www.northcoastrep.org/>)

#### **"The Nutcracker Ballet"**

--Enter the world of fantasy with sugar plum fairies, gingerbread and tin soldiers, mice and nutcrackers. Your son or daughter may want to be a ballet dancer after seeing this famous work. Civic Theatre includes a Sugar Plum party after the show. Dec. 18-21. For details see: [www.sdcivic.org](http://www.sdcivic.org) (<http://www.sdcivic.org/>)

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## THE LIVELY ARTS: Hamlish, 'MiXtape,' 'Grinch' and 'Storyville'

by Charlene Baldrige

5 days ago | 103 views | 0  | 0  |  | 



*Marci Anne Wuebben, Joy Yandell and Season Marshall Duffy in "MixTape," extended through Nov. 21 at Horton Grand Theatre, 444 Fourth Ave. Photo by J.T. MacMillan*

November's culturally-cool pleasures abound as the season changes and the holidays roll in.

At Copley Symphony Hall

Nov. 12-13: San Diego Symphony Winter Pops presents conductor Marvin Hamlish and special guests in a program titled "One Singular Sensation," featuring music from Hamlish's award-winning Broadway hit "A Chorus Line," plus music from his film scores. \$20-\$85.

Nov. 19-20, 8 p.m., Nov. 21, 2 p.m.: Jacobs Masterworks concert presents "Pines of Rome" with music by Rossini, Michael Torke (world premiere of "Cactus," concerto for harp, violin and

orchestra), Smetana and Respighi, conducted by Jahja Ling. \$20-\$96.  
[www.sandiegosymphony.org](http://www.sandiegosymphony.org) or (619) 235-0804.

At Horton Grand

Through Nov. 21: Lamb's Players Theatre continues its hit production of Jon Lorenz and Colleen Kollar Smith's "MiXtape" in extension. Horton Grand Theatre, 444 Fourth Ave. \$28-\$58  
[www.lambplayers.org](http://www.lambplayers.org) or (619) 437-6000.

At the Old Globe

Nov. 20-Dec. 26: The Old Globe presents its annual holiday show, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch





Stole Christmas!" With book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the piece was originally conceived and directed by Jack O'Brien. Calendar of performances at [http://theoldglobe.org/\\_pdf/grinch-Cal2010.pdf](http://theoldglobe.org/_pdf/grinch-Cal2010.pdf). Tickets range from \$35 to \$57 (child) and \$54 to \$77 depending on date. Tree lighting takes place at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21. [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org) or (619) 23-GLOBE.

At SD Repertory Theatre

Nov. 13-Dec. 12: On the Lyceum Stage, San Diego Repertory Theatre presents the revised 1979 musical "Storyville," set in 1917 New Orleans. Directed and revised by Broadway star Ken Page, the company of 21 singers and dancers is supported by a live, seven-piece band. For tickets (\$30-\$53) go to [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org) or phone (619) 544-1000.

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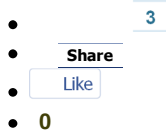
[The Nutcracker](#)

# San Diego's Holiday Theater Season 2010

by [Derek Smith](#) October 26, 2010

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Well, it's that time again: break out your Leg Lamps, Bundt Pans and Menorahs, San Dieg-ites. ChistmaHanaQuanzika is upon us!

Now as much as you love (hate) going to see that beautiful (three hour) production of The Nutcracker Ballet every year with the whole family (including but not limited to crying babies and texting teenagers), why don't you go see something anyone you invite will love? BELIEVE ME: This is coming from the kid who, at the age of 7, put on his own Nutcracker Ballet (complete with a cast of neighborhood kids, sound effects and printed programs) in his room. Even I, who once admittedly cried during the ever-so-moving Waltz of the Flowers, get sick of The Nutcracker Ballet.

Do yourself a favor and try out something new this year. San Diego's got plenty of theater picks this season and here's an easy breakdown for the most popular choices all over San Diego County.

## NEW VILLAGE ARTS, Carlsbad

SHOW: *Santaland Diaries*

By David Sedaris, Adapted by Joe Mantello

Directed by Kristianne Kurner

WHAT: A hilarious one-man play (starring NVA's own Darren Scott) based on the award winning essay by David Sedaris about a 30-something man who's hired as an Elf for Macy's Santaland.

WHEN: December 2-22nd

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)



A  
CHRISTMAS CAROL  
CHARLES DICKENS

SHOW: *A Christmas Carol*

By Charles Dickens

Newly Adapted by NVA's Rachel VanWormer and Brian Mackey

WHAT: The only *Christmas Carol* production in San Diego this year is a brand new adaptation that's workshopping as a part of [NVA's New Play Festival](#). Adapted to preserve the original words of Charles Dickens, this version celebrates the language from the original book by Mr. Dickens.

WHEN: November 26th-28th

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

## CYGNET THEATRE, Old Town, San Diego

SHOW: *It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play*

By Joe Landry Directed by Sean Murray

WHAT: Presented for its 5th year, the famous story of George Bailey and Clarence the Angel is brought to life as a 1940's live radio play, filled with music, live sound effects and plenty of heart.

WHEN: November 26th-December 31st

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

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### ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, Chula Vista and San Diego

SHOW: *A Taffeta Christmas*

By Rick Lewis Directed by John Fitzpatrick

WHAT: A 1950's Musical Review. It's the 1950's and the Dumont Television Network is featuring Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl and Donna on its weekly television show "Hometown Hoedown."

WHEN: December 2-12, theater location varies with date.

See details [HERE](#)

### THE OLD GLOBE, Balboa Park, San Diego

SHOW: *Plaid Tidings: A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid*

Written, Directed and Choreographed by Stuart Ross

WHAT: Encouraged by a heavenly phone call from Rosemary Clooney, the high-spirited boys of Forever Plaid – Frankie, Sparky, Jinx and Smudge – are transported from the ethereal cosmos to stage a nostalgic holiday extravaganzas tuffed with such "Plaid-erized" Christmas standards as "Mr. Santa," "Let It Snow" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

WHEN: November 27th-December 26th



### SHOW: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Book and Lyrics by Timothy Mason, Music by Mel Marvin

Directed by James Vasquez

WHAT: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for its 13th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "This Time of Year," "Santa for a Day" and "Fah Who Doraze," the delightful carol from the popular animated version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

TICKET INFO FOR BOTH SHOWS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

### CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THEATER, Downtown San Diego

SHOW: Tradition of Christmas: A Musical Spectacular

WHAT: A celebration with high-kicking Rockette-style dancers, Santa and his workshop of elves, and a live Nativity Pageant.

WHEN: December 17th-23rd

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

### LAMBS PLAYERS, Downtown San Diego

SHOW: Festival of Christmas

Written and Directed by Kerry Meads

WHAT: An energetic quartet getting their big break on a TV variety show is about to get an even bigger break as a blizzard shuts down New York and showbiz pandemonium ensues inside the studio.

WHEN: November 30th-December 30th

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

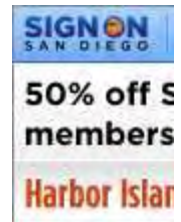
### NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATER, Solana Beach

WHAT: Five different holiday shows as a part of their "Off-Nights" series. Holiday shows include *How Do You Spell Chanukah?*, Jeffery Combs in *Nevermore*, *Mistletoe*, *Music and Mayhem*, *Dickens Unscripted*, and *Sister's Christmas Catechism*

MORE INFO [HERE](#)



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## Holiday Guide

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## Drama in your stocking

BY JAMES HEBERT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2010 AT 5:38 P.M.

When winter rolls around in San Diego, you generally can't fling a sprig of mistletoe without hitting a holiday theater event of some kind right in the kisser.

This year is no exception, although the mix is a little different. There's less Scrooge, for one thing. And more George Bailey. Here, a look at what's waiting for you under local theaters' Festivus/Chrimukkah trees.



"It's a Wonderful Life," Welk Resorts Theatre, through Dec. 30: This work, adapted by Tony Palermo, echoes Cygnet Theatre's established live-radio-broadcast spin on the beloved movie. (888) 802-7469 or [welktheatresandiego.com](http://welktheatresandiego.com)

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Old Globe Theatre, through Dec. 26: The Green One (in the person of Jeff Skowron) skulks back for a lucky 13th year, under James Vasquez's direction. (619) 234-5623 or [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org)

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," Cygnet Theatre, Nov. 26 to Dec. 31: The ode to the classic movie about the humbly heroic George Bailey was adapted as a radio play by Joe Landry; it has become a holiday tradition at Cygnet. (619) 337-1525 or [cygnettheatre.com](http://cygnettheatre.com)

"Big Band Christmas," Nov. 26 to Dec. 31, Welk Resorts Theatre: A celebration of the season through the sounds of the '40s. (888) 802-7469 or [welktheatresandiego.com](http://welktheatresandiego.com)

"A Christmas Carol," New Village Arts Theatre, Nov. 26-28: A workshop production of a new Dickens adaptation by local performer-writers Rachael VanWormer and Brian Mackey. (760) 433-3245 or [newvillagearts.org](http://newvillagearts.org)

"Plaid Tidings — A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid," Old Globe's White Theatre, Nov. 27 to Dec. 26: Written, directed and choreographed by Stuart Ross, the show taps the long-running "Plaid" franchise. (619) 234-5623 or [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org)

"Festival of Christmas," Lamb's Players Theatre, Nov. 30 to Dec. 30: The fest features a different play every year; this one's an encore of the '50s-set "It's Christmas and It's Live!" (619) 437-6000 or [lambplayers.org](http://lambplayers.org)

"The Santaland Diaries," New Village Arts Theatre, Dec. 2-24: NVA brings back its popular staging of the David Sedaris solo comedy, starring Daren Scott. (760) 433-3245 or [newvillagearts.org](http://newvillagearts.org)

"A Taffeta Christmas," Onstage Playhouse, Dec. 2-5 and 10-12: Another returnee, this '50s musical revue brightens the stage of the Chula Vista company. (619) 422-7787 or [onstageplayhouse.org](http://onstageplayhouse.org)



NELVIN C. CEPEDA

"Plaid Tidings."

**Erin Reiter**

## Theater is twice as nice at the Old Globe

December 11th, 2010 8:12 pm PT



Jason Heil, Leo Daignault, David Brannen and Michael Winther in *Plaid Tidings - A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid*

Photo: Henry DiRocco

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Only a few more weeks to see two holiday classics from the Old Globe; catch them before they're gone!

### *Plaid Tidings — A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid*

Playing through December 26th

This heavenly and humorous quartet is back at the Old Globe and they are bringing their harmonic sound with them! Filled with renditions of musical hits from the '50s and '60s and Christmas standards as "Mr. Santa," "Let It Snow" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," *Plaid Tidings* brings great music the Plaid way!

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

Playing through December 26th

It's that time of year again; when the Grinch makes an appearance you know that it's Christmas time! America's favorite holiday fable is back at the Old Globe for its 13th incredible year and true to the book it is a wonderful, whimsical production! Come take part in the fun as the Old Globe Theatre is transformed into the snow-covered Whoville right down to the last can of Who-hash!

For ticket information to both *Plaid Tidings — A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid* and *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Click [here](#)

Interested in having your San Diego theater performance, venue, event, or other local activity featured in the San Diego Theater Guide? Send details to ErinMarie at [sdtheater.examiner@gmail.com](mailto:sdtheater.examiner@gmail.com) or Follow me on Twitter! [@SdTheaternews](#)



## Cultural Winter Activiites in San Diego, California

Oct 13, 2010 [Jennifer W. Miner](#)

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Festival of Christmas at Lamb's  
Players Theatre - *Lamb's Players*

A warm winter vacation is within reach, and San Diego's many cultural events and family-friendly parades make luxury travel there well-rounded.

For the luxury travel fan considering a winter vacation in Southern California, look no further than San Diego. Luxury vacations extend beyond stays at [5-star inns](#) and resorts and upscale dining – both of which San Diego has in spades. Cultural events in San Diego are hardly few and far between. This Southern California city is a mecca for tourists who seek more than simply the beach. There are many cultural events and family-friendly activities during the winter travel season; these recommended [winter events in San Diego](#) will make a luxury trip there more interesting.

**Winter Festivals and Parades in San Diego**

*Balboa Park December Nights* is a popular holiday event, and in 2010 it is on December 3rd and 4th. It's free, completely family-friendly, and full of the holiday spirit. It's actually the largest annual free community festival in San Diego; a large crowd looks forward to it all year. Balboa Park December Nights is sprawling, with a re-creation of a traditional Native American village, live entertainment and dance performances, free admission to Balboa Park's museums, and, of course, Christmas carolers.

Come see Santa, Southern California style! Every year, Santa comes dressed in board shorts to San Diego, in the *Surfing Santa at Seaport Village* event. He arrives by water, as befits the





# RANCHO MAGAZINE

November 2010

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Add some fun to your holiday season with a visit to an area attraction, play or concert.

*Compiled by Barbara Norton and José A. López*

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*by John Rosemond*

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# HOLIDAY

## *Happenings*

### '10



## MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS MERRY AND BRIGHT

Compiled by Barbara Norton  
and José A. López

**M**ark your calendars for the variety of holiday happenings this season. For those who want to stay close to home, there are plenty of opportunities to celebrate the holidays. Traditional and fun holiday activities are also taking place around the county.



FILE PHOTO

Santa will turn in his red suit for board shorts and sail into Seaport Village when it hosts its holiday kick-off event Saturday, Nov. 27 starting at 1 p.m.

Santa will be at the Spanish Village Art Center, the Organ Pavilion, San Diego Art Institute (Museum of the Living Artist), San Diego Automotive Museum in a classic car, and the San Diego Zoo Zone. Also enjoy photo opportunities with The Grinch at The Old Globe.

Find information about Balboa Park December Nights entertainment, food, parking, free shuttles, traffic, and free museums at [www.Balboapark.org](http://www.Balboapark.org).

Santa will turn in his red suit for board shorts and sail into **Seaport Village** when it hosts its holiday kick-off event Saturday, Nov. 27 starting at 1 p.m. The event features rocking holiday music and live entertainment. Kids can make ornaments from recycled materials to take home. For more information, call 619-235-4014.



# HOLIDAY

## *Happenings*

### '10



## MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS MERRY AND BRIGHT

Compiled by **Barbara Norton**  
and **José A. López**

**M**ark your calendars for the variety of holiday happenings this season. For those who want to stay close to home, there are plenty of opportunities to celebrate the holidays. Traditional and fun holiday activities are also taking place around the county.

**The Old Globe Theater** in Balboa Park continues with the tradition of staging Dr. Seuss' **"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"** for the holidays. Now in its 13th year, the

musical features Jeff Skowron as the grouchy green Grinch, who hatches a plan to end Christmas in Whoville. Previews run Nov. 20-26 with opening night Nov. 27. The play runs through Dec. 26. Ticket prices run from \$39-\$77 for adults and \$20-\$57 for children ages 3-17. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org), by phone at 619-23-GLOBE or by visiting the box office.

Also at the Old Globe will be a special engagement of **"Plaid Tidings — A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid."** The musical will run from Nov. 27 to Dec. 26 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre. Opening night is Dec. 2. Tickets start at \$35. For tickets, visit [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org) or call 619-23-GLOBE.

Join the cast at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 for the Old Globe Annual Tree Lighting.

**The Cygnet Theatre Company** will stage **"It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play"** Dec. 4-30 with previews Nov. 26-Dec. 3 at the Old Town Theatre. Adapted from the beloved movie, the reading presents the story of George Bailey and Clarence the Angel as a 1940s live radio play filled with music, live sound effects and plenty of heart. For more information, go to [www.cygnettheatre.com](http://www.cygnettheatre.com).



The Old Globe's tree lighting festivities at 6 p.m. Nov. 21 feature cast members of **"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"** and members of **"Plaid Tidings."**

PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE OLD GLOBE THEATER



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## Old Globe Theater San Diego "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

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During the holiday season, The Old Globe Theater San Diego hosts a very popular production of Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The musical sells out every year, so move quickly and reserve your tickets!

Now in its 13th season, the whimsical tale of the Whos of Whoville and the gift-hoarding Grinch who tries to control the holidays, shows no signs of wear and tear.

This year's production at the Old Globe Theater San Diego boasts a new director, James Vasquez and many favorite actors return to the stage, including lead-Grinch, Jeff Skowron. Children from all over San Diego fill in as Whoville residents, making this truly a home-grown production.



matinee shows.

The musical includes the favorite carol from the animated version of the show, "Welcome, Christmas (Fah Who Doraze)," along with other Grinch staples like "Santa for a Day" and "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

Details for the 2010 season are:

- Previews begin Saturday, November 20. Opening is Friday, November 26, and the play runs through December 26.
- Schedule: Tuesdays – Fridays, 7 pm; Weekends, 11 am, 2 pm and 5 pm (with exceptions, so doublecheck with the theater)
- Prices for this show are \$39.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children in Area A, and \$54.00 for adults and \$35.00 for children in the premium section.
- The 11 am matinee is open to all ages, but children under three will only be admitted to the



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**The Old Globe Theater kicks off the holiday season** with their annual Christmas tree lighting on Sunday, November 21 at 6:00 pm. The tree is located in the Globe Plaza and families will get to see a live performance by members of both the "Grinch" and "Plaid Tidings" casts. The event is free and included for ticket holders to the 4:00 pm show or you may contact the Box Office for more info.

Besides the Grinch shows, the Old Globe Theater San Diego also puts on "Plaid Tidings," which is performed by the popular Forever Plaid quartet. "Plaid Tidings," billed as a special holiday edition, delivers a variety of holiday songs and standards like "Jingle Bells," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "Joy to the World." "Plaid Tidings" starts November 27 and runs through December 26.

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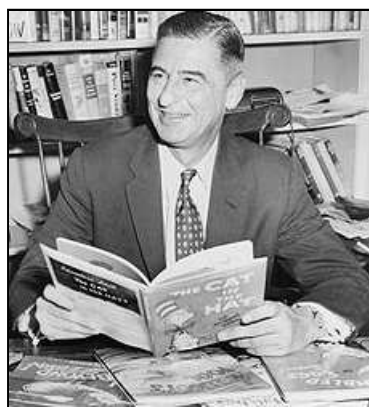
## Out & About San Diego with Jim Frimmer, Your Mission Valley Realtor — How the Grinch Stole Christmas!



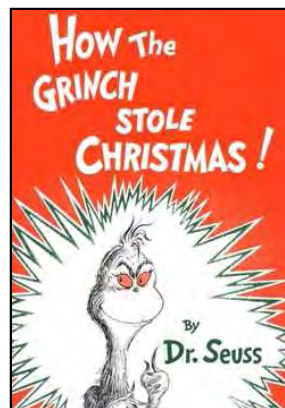
## How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and that means it's time for the annual presentation of Theodor Geisel's well-known book, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Wait! Theodor who?



Theodor Geisel.  
Theodor Seuss Geisel.  
Also known as Dr.  
Seuss!



Although Mr. Geisel was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, he lived right here in La Jolla, California, from just after World War II until his death here in San Diego in 1991. The library at the University of California San

Diego was renamed the Geisel Library shortly after his death, and his personal collection of papers and literary works are housed at the Geisel Library.

But back to *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, now a traditional end-of-year presentation of the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. This year's Old Globe presentation starts November 20 and runs through December 26. Tickets can be purchased by calling 619-23-Globe or visiting [TheOldGlobe.org](http://TheOldGlobe.org). For group sales, call 619-231-1941, ext. 2408



### ☐ Listings

### ☐ Links

### ☐ Archives

- [November 2010 \(21\)](#)
- [October 2010 \(64\)](#)
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Posted by [Jim Frimmer, Realtor and CDPE, Mission Valley, CA DRE #01458572](#) on 11/11/2010 04:36 PM

[Comments \(4\)](#)

[Old Globe Theatre](#) in the [Regional \(Localism\)](#) Channel

[dr seuss](#), [how the grinch stole christmas](#), [old globe theatre](#)

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Originally posted at: [Jim's blog: Out & About San Diego with Jim Frimmer, Your Mission Valley Realtor — How the Grinch Stole Christmas!](#)

This post has been included in [California Real Estate News San Diego County, CA Real Estate News](#)

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#### 4 Comments on Out & About San Diego with Jim Frimmer, Your Mission Valley Realtor — How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

NOV  
11

Fun trivia information and great way to introduce the local presentation of that classic tale.



Connie Goodrich,CRS ABR (McKinney Realtor)Texas (Keller Williams Realty)

4:42pm • [#1](#)

Jim - Over the decades, the Olde Globe has really expanded it's venue and the genre of presentations. In fact, in my youth while at Hoover High, we just called it that "Shakespeare place in the park!"



Jack Mossman - The Nines Team in Lodi (The Nines Team Realty)

5:02pm • [#2](#)

My little brother had all the Dr. Suess books. Since he isn't married and has no children he gave them to my daughter. That was always her favorite. I'd love to see the preformance.



Tammy Lankford/Broker Lane Realty Lake Sinclair-Central GA

6:58pm • [#3](#)

NOV  
12

Brings back happy memories! Growing up with no TV, we would go next door to Grandma's to watch special programs; and this was one of them! Still try to catch seeing it every Christmas! He did write some really great all time favorite books! Green eggs and Ham and of course The Cat in the Hat!!!!



Marilyn Harrell (Century21 Smith-Miller, Inc.)

1:36pm • [#4](#)

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## NEWS

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## Miss California Arianna Afsar shines in the spotlight

BY BLANCA GONZALEZ

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 AT 9:30 P.M.

Arianna Afsar is used to the spotlight.

The San Diegan's credits include leading parts in local productions of "Annie" and "High School Musical." She also made it to the top 36 on "American Idol" last year, but her latest role is one she inhabits 24/7 and comes with a crown.

As Miss California 2010, Afsar will compete at the [Miss America](#) pageant in January.

With her bubbly demeanor and genuine smile, Afsar has a sweet, girl-next-door appeal that comes through when she talks



CHARLIE NEUMAN / UNION-TRIBUNE

about her surprise at winning the state title at the July pageant held in Fresno.

"I was really shocked to be in the top five," she said, vivaciously recalling the experience. "And then when it was down to the last two, I was thinking 'Oh my gosh, I made it to runner-up.' I just didn't think I'd win on my first try."

A 2009 graduate of Westview High School, the Rancho Peñasquitos resident will be 19 next month and is taking a break from her studies at the [University of California, Los Angeles](#), to prepare for the national pageant and attend to her Miss California duties.

The title comes with scholarship money and living arrangements that have her staying with a host family in [Orange](#) County so that she's living, eating, breathing Miss California all day, every day. "From the time I wake up I'm in Miss California mode," Afsar said enthusiastically. She usually hits the gym daily, meets regularly with a vocal coach and takes a current events class to keep her sharp for the interview portion of the competition. She makes appearances at children's hospitals, senior centers and other pageants around the state. The aspiring actress and singer doesn't mind the pace and still finds time to see her parents on most weekends and being part of the a cappella group she joined last year at [UCLA](#).

For anyone familiar with [Carrie Prejean](#), it is important to note that this Miss California pageant is different from the Miss California USA pageant that Prejean won in 2009 before being stripped of her crown over contract violations. (Prejean sparked controversy over her answer about [same-sex marriage](#) during the [Miss USA](#) pageant.) The for-profit parent organization of Miss California USA is owned by [Donald Trump](#). The parent organization of Miss California is Miss America and was started in 1921 as a bathing beauty contest in [Atlantic City](#) to extend the tourist season. The nonprofit Miss America pageant is now touted as a scholarship program which requires talent, academic achievement and community service.

Miss California, Arianna Afsar.



PHOTO BY CHARLIE NEUMAN - UNION-TRIBUNE

At the Silverado Senior Living facility Miss California Arianna Afsar greets resident Bonnie Graham with her daughters Barb Rodeman, of [Indiana](#), at left, and Susan Barrett, or [Arizona](#), at right, as she's on her way to perform for the facility's residents and clients of the Glenner [Alzheimer's Center](#).



PHOTO BY CHARLIE NEUMAN - UNION-TRIBUNE

Millie MacEwing, a client of the Glenner Alzheimer's Center, applauds Miss California Arianna Afsar after hearing her sing at the Silverado Senior Living facility.



As Miss California, Afsar helps promote the Children's Miracle Network, a nonprofit group that raises funds for children's hospitals and is supported by the Miss America organization. She also has her own platform of Adopt-a-Grandfriend, a group she started in 2005. She had been visiting senior centers for years to sing and entertain for appreciative audiences. "It was an avenue for me to perform and not be judged," she said earnestly. During visits to her own grandmother at a nursing home in [San Jose](#), she noticed that many residents rarely had visitors. She rallied friends and classmates to join her for monthly visits to a Rancho Peñasquitos senior center where they usually entertained with songs and dances. "We're never booed off or judged," she said with a laugh. "They're just happy to have us perform for them."



PHOTO BY CHARLIE NEUMAN - UNION-TRIBUNE

Miss California, Arianna Afsar, dances with Glenner Alzheimer's Center client Joe Sandiford at the Silverado Senior Living facility.

Whether she is performing for millions of national television viewers, thousands of local theatergoers at the Starlight Theatre or a few dozen seniors at the Glenner Alzheimer's Family Center in Encinitas, Afsar relishes her moments on stage,

"I've been passionate about singing since I was 10," said Afsar who started in pageants for the chance to perform in talent competitions.

She was Miss California's Outstanding Teen in 2005 and placed as first runner-up in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen contest. The pageants, which are also part of the Miss America organization, earned her more than \$20,000 in scholarships. It helped pay for her first year at UCLA, said her mother, Karin Schumacher.

Miss California pageant officials say her youth could be a detriment at the national pageant, where she'll be competing with 24-year-old college graduates. But they're confident her maturity, strength and work ethic will more than counterbalance her age. "This is a remarkable young woman," said Bob Arnhy, president and CEO of the Miss California pageant. "She's a very talented young lady. She's mature for her age and she's very charismatic."

Her can-do attitude is also a strength and something she's had for years. As a sophomore in high school, Afsar and a friend decided to produce a talent show to raise money for charity. They raised \$2,400 for the Special Olympics.

Arnhy is confident Afsar will handle herself well on the national stage. "She's accustomed to large audiences and she has the kind of energy people gravitate to," he said.

She sang the national anthem at the recent Chargers season home opener and her local theater credits include starring as Cindy-Lou Who in the Old Globe's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and Gabriella in "High School Musical" at the Starlight.

Her parents, Schumacher and Muhammad Afsar, said their daughter discovered her love of performing during a vacation to [Florida](#) when the family went to a restaurant that had karaoke. "She was six. She sang 'My Heart Will Go On' and she knew all the lyrics," her mother said.

During a recent visit to the Glenner Center, Afsar's effervescent demeanor and strong, confident voice charmed a roomful of seniors and staff with a performance that included songs ranging from "Over the Rainbow" to Etta James' "At Last."

She drew enthusiastic applause and cheers of "Bravo" from the audience and cheerfully confessed, "Just to let you know, I can sing for days and days, so you'll have to let me know when you're bored."

Afsar wasn't one of those little girls who fantasized about being Miss America but she is now very focused on that goal, her mother said. "She's more of a doer than a dreamer," Schumacher said. "She just makes things happen."

blanca.gonzalez@uniontrib.com

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# SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

November 27, 2010

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## *Dear visitors, want to act like a local? Follow these steps (flip-flops required)*



**KARLA  
PETERSON**

Wow, look at the calendar, Thanksgiving Weekend visitors! Saturday, already. Time flies when you're living the drop-in dream.

That's what you think, anyway.

But while you are happily shaking beach sand out of your black socks, your hosts are living the holiday-visitor nightmare and thinking, "When will it end?"

It doesn't have to be this way. By following these easy tips, you could go from high-maintenance visitor to no-sweat local in no time. Before you

know it, your host will be asking you for microbrew tips. Flip-flops and caritas leftovers are not optional. Getting an underfunded job and depreciating house is up to you.

### **What to wear**

It's true — many (too many) San Diego men wear shorts and flip-flops year 'round, no matter what their wives/mothers/bosses say. So guys, let your inner cabana boy run free. Unless it's raining, then force your inner cabana boy to put on some shoes. No one wants to see your pruney toes.

The same dress code does not apply to San Diego women, who like to pretend we have seasons because the

SEE **PETERSON • A7**

# PETERSON • While we complain about tourists, San Diegans love to do touristy stuff

FROM A1

balmy reality is a sartorial snooze. This time of year, female locals like to dress for a cool fall day in New England, no matter what the temperatures really are. We are ladies, not savages.

## Conversation starters

- The Chargers and the Padres.
- Our awesome homegrown beers.
- “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” still at the Old Globe after 12 years.
- Our amazing and affordable Mexican food.
- Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rae Armantrout.
- Comic-Con in 2011, baby!

## Conversation squelchers

- The Chargers and the Padres.
- Our scary homegrown pensions.
- The Geezer Bandit, still at large after more than a year.
- Our amazing shrinking home prices.
- “Don’t touch my junk” guy, John Tyner.
- Chargers Stadium Campaign, now and forever!

## What to do

While we complain about tourists, San Diegans love to do touristy stuff. And we know how to do it right. That means breezing into the San Diego Zoo in the morning while the animals are still awake, swinging by the Old Town Mexican Cafe for lunch (dinner is way too crazy), and exploring the frequently overlooked Cabrillo National Monument tide pools.

Locals are also not immune to the

charms of a beach sunset. Even natives get breathless over the view from Ellen Browning Scripps Park in La Jolla. And don’t even think about skipping the Anza-Borrego State Park, which is really gorgeous right now.

Whether you choose the beach or the desert, please keep your video narration to yourself. The management does not want to be responsible for your double-rainbow moment.

## What not to do

If you insist on eating at the insanely popular Hodad’s in Ocean Beach, you cannot complain about the line. If you decide to brave brunch (aka Brunchosaurus) at Hash House A Go Go, you cannot make oinking noises when they bring your giant entrée. If you feel compelled to visit the marooned Carnival Splendor cruise ship, do not expect any San Diegans to go with you. We are so over the Carnival Splendor cruise ship.

Also, please don’t tell us about your amazing, sophisticated, star-studded day trip to Los Angeles. Unless you got stuck in hideous Los Angeles traffic. In which case, time to dish!

Finally, don’t head out to one of our too-many casinos expecting glitz, glamour or gorgeous waitresses bearing freebie cocktails. You’re there to gamble, and no one is going to spend time, money or cheap tequila convincing you otherwise. But if you win, dinner at the Grand Del Mar is on you.

---

karla.peterson@uniontrib.com • (619) 293-1275

Twitter@karla\_peterson.



# SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

December 2010

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## NEWS*digest*



**HOLIDAY SPIRIT:** Young cast members of 'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' sing holiday songs during the annual Christmas tree lighting at The Old Globe theater Nov. 21.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



JOY  
TO THE  
PARK

San Diego welcomes  
holiday season  
on a grand scale  
at December Nights

NINA GARIN • U-T

Just as New York City has its tree lighting at Rockefeller Center, San Diego has its own Christmas tradition in December Nights.

For the past 33 years, people from all over the county have gathered at Balboa Park for the free celebration that features music, storytelling and plenty of food.

The event, called Christmas on the Prado until 2002, was founded in 1978 by 10 Balboa Park cultural organizations and attracted 3,000 guests. The two-evening event featured ethnic crafts, museum store shopping, Elizabethan dances and music.

It has since grown to 300,000 visitors over two days, and includes everything from “Nutcracker” performances and a tree-lighting ceremony to carolers and foods from around the world.

“It doesn’t feel like the holidays until I go to December Nights,” said Pacific Beach’s Dena Taylor. “I’ve been going for as long as I can remember, and it has a way of filling the family with happiness.”

Here’s a guide to navigating one of San Diego’s largest festivals:



The San Diego Civic Dance Arts group performs “Need a Little Christmas” at December Nights last year. K.C. ALFRED • U-T

December Nights

**When:** 5 to 10 p.m. Friday;  
noon to 10 p.m. Saturday.  
**Where:** Balboa Park  
**Cost:** Free  
**Phone:** (619) 239-0512  
**Online:** visitDecemberNights.org

Standouts

With so many activities, it’s easy to get a bit of sensory overload. Be sure to plan ahead to see some December Nights favorites.

The lighting of the Organ Pavilion **Christmas Tree** happens at 5:45 p.m. Friday at the event’s opening ceremony.

The Santa Lucia Procession, a Swedish celebration of candlelight and music, takes place at 6 and 8 each night at the Museum of Man. Stick around for Swedish meatballs and glögg, the popular hot, spiced wine.

The **Chop Soo-ey** gourmet food truck, run by David Cohn and Deborah Scott, will serve Asian fusion and barbecue at

Plaza de Panama, outside the San Diego Museum of Art.

The Del Cerro Baptist Church will stage the “**Christmas Story Tree**,” at the Organ Pavilion. The 80-voice choir and drama team tell the story of Christmas in music and living scenes from 8:40 to 10 each night.

The Botanical Building houses its **24th annual Poinsettia Display** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Food

“The food is kind of a big deal,” said December Nights spokeswoman Gema Tarango. “A lot of people come to December Nights specifically for the food. There are so many varieties available, and it’s fun just to walk around and smell all the different aromas.”

**Plaza de Panama** is the place to go for adult tastes, featuring garlic french fries, crispy green beans, Kobe burgers and Asian barbecue pulled pork sandwiches from The Prado restaurant. The Holiday Spirit Lounge will serve up sangrias and “grown-up” hot chocolate along with

cocktails, wine and beer.

The **International Cottage Christmas Festival** is a foodie favorite with authentic cuisine, music and holiday traditions from more than 30 countries.

You’ll find empanadas from Argentina, bratwurst from Germany, palak paneer from India, Viking pea soup from Norway, pancit from the Philippines and borscht from the Ukraine.

There will also be kebabs, tacos, hot dogs, pizza and more.

Entertainment

The many stages scattered throughout Balboa Park will feature performances by musicians, including the Bayou Brothers and Eve Selis, as well as presentations by area dance and elementary schools. You’ll also find entertainment by Balboa Park arts groups.

The Old Globe Theatre will have popcorn and photos with The Grinch from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. There will also be a Dr. Seuss shopping experience with toys, gifts and games at the complex’s gift shop.

San Diego Civic Youth Ballet

will perform excerpts from “**The Nutcracker**” at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Casa del Prado Patio Stage. And students from **San Diego Junior Theatre** will perform holiday-themed acts from 5 to 9 p.m. each day at Casa del Prado.

Museum programs

Another draw to December Nights is free admission to museums from 5 to 9 both evenings. Along with checking out the latest exhibits, each spot also has its own holiday-themed activity. Some highlights include holiday tunes at the San Diego Natural History Museum’s atrium as well as cookies, mistletoe, crafts, coffee and other beverages for sale. The Mingei International Museum will showcase a charming “Gingerbread City” exhibit while the Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater will put on Christmas puppet shows at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Shopping

At the Spanish Village Art Center, art galleries and gift vendors will sell their wares, and



there will also be photos with Santa, carolers, a barbershop quartet and food and drinks.

More than 20 artists, crafters and artisans will be on hand at Central Cultural de la Raza with items between \$5 and \$50. They will also sell ornaments, the proceeds going to The Centro.

Other handmade and international gifts will be sold at the United Nations Association, the Mingei Museum and the WorldBeat Center gift shops.

**Parking**

As magical as December Nights can be, traffic and parking are often a nightmare. But unless you insist on finding a spot near the park, there are plenty of stress-free solutions.

**Free and low-cost options:** You'll find free parking and free shuttles running every 10 to 15 minutes from City College and the County Administration Building on Pacific Highway. You can park at Petco Park for \$3 and

take a free shuttle. The shuttles, which are stroller-friendly, run from 4:30 to 11 p.m. Friday and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday.

**Paid options:** If you want to be by the park, you'll have to pay. Preferred parking at the Natural History Museum lot is \$20 and goes fast. Spaces across the street at Inspiration Point go for \$10. Those who show up early can find some free spots at the San Diego Zoo and along the streets, but those go even faster.

**Beware:** Balboa Park lots close at 2 p.m. Friday, so you can't arrive early and save a spot. Cars will be required to exit and re-enter with paid admission.

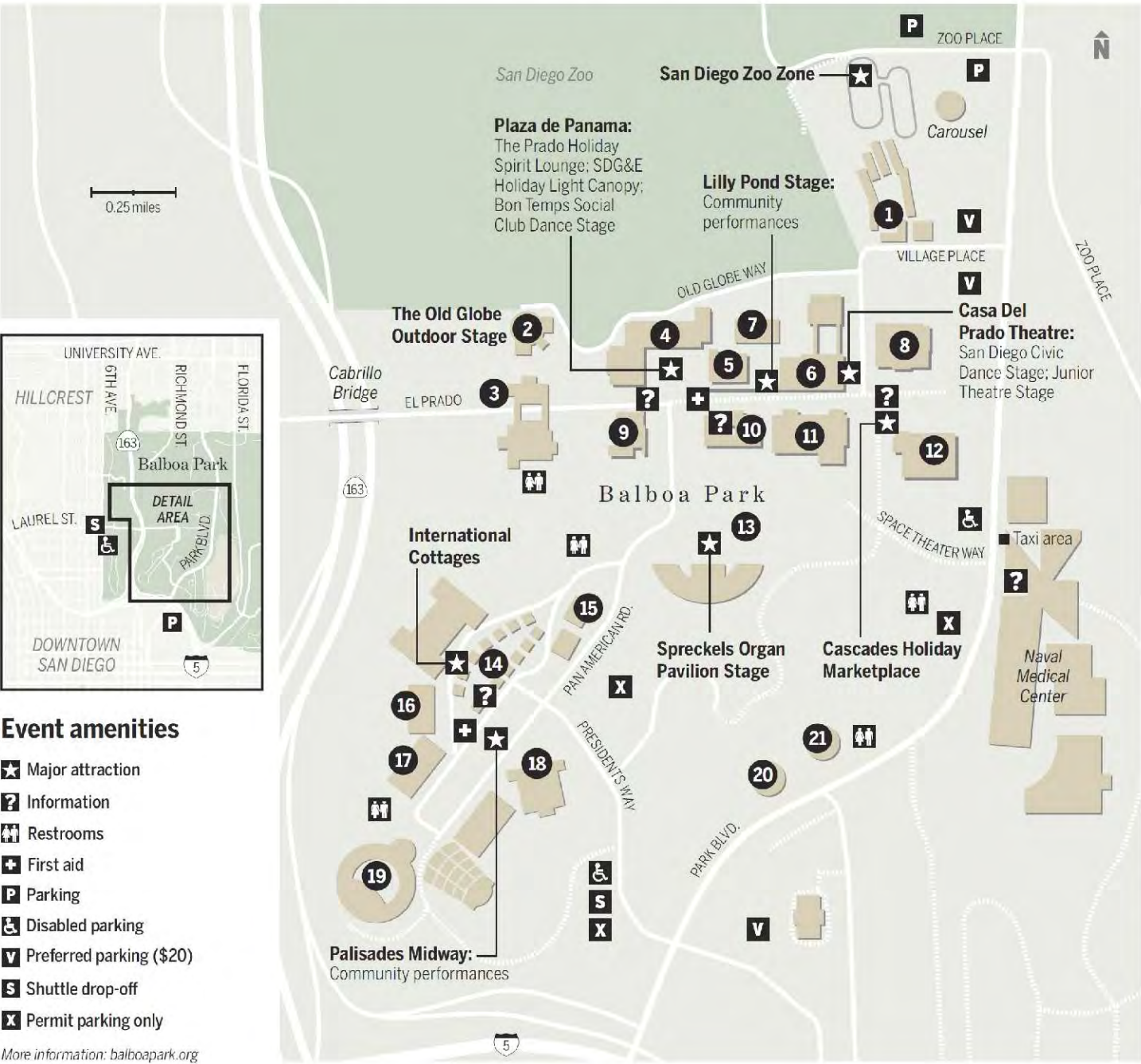
**Public transportation:** If you take the trolley, your stop will be the Smart Corner on Park Boulevard, then transfer to the Route 7 bus, which will run extra buses throughout the weekend.

**Extras**

Bring in your old lights to

Plaza de Panama and San Diego Gas & Electric will give you energy-efficient ones. All you need is a California identification card or a copy of your SDG&E bill.

If you have any new or gently used coats to donate to the December Nights Winter Coat Drive, bring them to the San Diego Hall of Champions, where Padres pitcher Chris Young and his wife, Liz, will collect them for San Diego's homeless community. See sdhoc.com.



**Holiday in the park**

December Nights, a Balboa Park holiday tradition, will take place from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday and noon to 10 p.m. Saturday. There will be outdoor stages featuring music, dance and theater. Participating museums will be free from 5 to 9 both nights. Free shuttles will be offered from the Petco Park area. City College and the County Administration Center parking lots.

1. Spanish Village Art Center; San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
2. The Old Globe and Globe Guilders
3. San Diego Museum of Man
4. San Diego Museum of Art
5. Timken Museum of Art
6. San Diego Civic Dance Assn.; San Diego Civic Youth Ballet; San Diego Floral Assn.; San Diego Junior Theatre; San Diego County Dahlia Society; San Diego Turtle & Tortoise Society; Blind Community Center; San Diego Chorus - Sweet Adelines Intl.
7. Botanical Building
8. San Diego Natural History Museum
9. SDAl: Museum of the Living Artist; Mingei International Museum
10. Balboa Park Visitors Center; police storefront; lost and found; missing persons; The Prado restaurant
11. San Diego History Center; Museum of Photographic Arts; San Diego Model Railroad Museum
12. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
13. Japanese Friendship Garden; nativity scenes and gingerbread cottage of Community Christmas Center
14. House of Pacific Relations; Intl. Cottages Christmas Festival
15. United Nations Association International Gift Shop
16. Balboa Park Puppet Guild; Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater
17. San Diego Automotive Museum
18. San Diego Hall of Champions
19. San Diego Air and Space Museum
20. Centro Cultural de la Raza
21. WorldBeat Center

**Event amenities**

- ★ Major attraction
- ? Information
- Restrooms
- + First aid
- P Parking
- Disabled parking
- V Preferred parking (\$20)
- S Shuttle drop-off
- X Permit parking only

More information: [balboapark.org](http://balboapark.org)

Source: Balboa Park

BETO ALVAREZ • U-T



CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN SAN DIEGO

December Nights returns Friday to Balboa Park

BY PAM KRAGEN  
pkragen@californian.com

SAN DIEGO — More than 300,000 people are expected to pack Balboa Park’s 33rd annual December Nights festival next weekend, which features free museum admission, continuous live entertainment and gifts and food from around the world.

The festival runs from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday and from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday.

Billed as San Diego’s largest free community festival, Dec-ember

Nights expanded six years ago to include daytime activities, and the change has helped manage the crowds, which have swelled over the past several years. Organizers are expecting an even bigger turnout this year, so come prepared, said Balboa Park spokeswoman Debbie Petruzzelli.

Because the crowds are always so huge, Petruzzelli advises visitors to use public transportation, avoid driving on Highway 163, and arrive early both days to beat the crush.

Featured events include around-the-clock live choir, dancing, music

and theater entertainment throughout the park; a holiday marketplace; children’s craft activities; strolling carolers and musicians; art exhibits; and shopping specials in museum gift shops.

Santa Claus will also be here, there and everywhere both days, with appearances scheduled in at least five locations: the San Diego Automotive Museum, Casa del Prado, Community Christmas Center, San Diego Air and Space Museum and Spanish Village Art Center.

One of the biggest highlights for most families is free museum

admission. From 5 to 9 p.m. both nights, most of the Balboa Park museums will open their doors for free. Inside, the museums are planning entertainment, floral displays and docent-led tours. Museums and local civic groups will be serving festive food and beverage items throughout the park, including cinnamon rolls, meatballs, barbecue, popcorn, hot dogs, apple fritters, hot apple cider and cocoa, pasta and a beer garden.

See **Nights, E4**

Nights

Continued from Page E1

The Museum of Man will present a Santa Lucia procession through the park at 6 and 8 p.m. each evening. The Scandinavian Catholic tradition, which honors the martyred St. Lucy, features young girls and boys bearing candles and singing traditional holiday songs. In Scandinavia, girls dressed in white, wearing garlands in their hair, and boys wearing cone-shaped paper hats decorated with cut-out stars parade through the streets and bring coffee and sweets to schools, hospitals, churches and offices. Traditional Swedish foods (meatballs, pea soup and rosette pastries) will be for sale.

The Botanical Building — the large wood-lattice greenhouse near the koi pond — will have its annual poinsettia exhibit on display. The San Diego Model Railroad Display has its Lego train up and running. And dozens of vendor booths will line the Prado sidewalk.

More than 100 local arts groups will perform on the decorated Spreckels Organ Pavilion stage, as well as on several other indoor and

outdoor stages, including at the Palisades Plaza, Plaza de Panama, International Cottages Stage, Casa del Prado courtyard and theater and the new Lily Pond stage. The diverse lineup includes country bands, high school dance teams, bell ringers, gospel pantomime artists, jazz and Christian choirs, a Scottish pipe band, ballet folklorico dancers and belly dancing.

Among the highlights at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion will be Del Cerro Baptist’s annual “Christmas Story Tree” production, a dazzling music and light extravaganza from 8:30 to 10 p.m. both nights. The program features an 80-voice choir and drama team presenting the story of Christmas in music and living scenes.

The Old Globe Theatre will be open for tours. Park visitors can shop in the Whoville Country Store (featuring holiday gifts, toys and games), munch on popcorn and pose for photos with the Grinch, the star of the Globe’s “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas” musical.

Back this year will be the Prado Holiday Spirits Lounge, which will be set up in the parking lot in front of the San Diego Museum of Art. Cohn Restaurant Group, which operates a dozen restaurants countywide, will prepare small plates of garlic French

fries, crispy greens mini-Kobe burgers and Asian pulled pork sandwiches. There will also be a bar serving beer, sangria and “grown up” hot chocolate. Other food options include Cohn’s new Chop-Sooeey Gourmet Food Truck (parked in the Plaza de Panama) and ethnic specialties at the House of Pacific Relations International Cottages.

The Palisades Midway will serve as the family zone, where carnival rides, arcade games and activities will be presented.

In the Plaza de Panama, the Bon Temps Social Club as well as other Cajun/zydeco performers from around San Diego will perform. Also on the Plaza, SeaWorld San Diego will host an animal meet-and-greet and photo area and will offer information on seasonal events at the theme park.

San Diego Gas & Electric will light the nights with a 20,000-LED light canopy over the Plaza de Panama, and they’ll be offering a Christmas tree light exchange program. Park visitors who bring old, energy-gobbling tree light strands to the Plaza de Panama can exchange them for free, energy-saving LED light strings while supplies last (bring valid California ID or a copy of your SDG&E bill to par-

ticipate).

Vendor booths will be set up near the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and San Diego Natural History Museum. The Cascades Holiday Marketplace will offer crafts and food for sale, as well as live entertainment.

As in years past, the International Cottages’ Christmas Festival will feature holiday decor and ethnic dance and music on the half-hour, as well as a food fair featuring dishes from 30 countries, including Colombian carne asada, German bratwurst, Indian naan bread and tikka masala, Czech sauerkraut, Norwegian waffles, Panamanian coconut rice and Palestinian falafel. There will also be a beer and wine garden where samples of ethnic drinks — like Swedish *glogg*, Mexican coffee, Peruvian Pisco Sour, Panamanian rum, Chinese beer and English whiskey — will be sold.

At the Spanish Village Art Center, all 37 studios will be open with exhibits on display, food for sale, photos with Santa and live entertainment both evenings by dulcimer player Scott Williams, carolers and a barbershop quartet.

Again this year, the historical Moreton Bay fig tree will be illumi-

nated and decorated. The huge tree fills an entire block-sized square behind the San Diego Natural History Museum. Also decorated with lights will be the Spreckels Organ Pavilion and the California Tower at the Museum of Man.

The San Diego Zoo will be closed during evening hours both nights, but it will offer \$4 round-trip rides on the Skyfari. Outside the zoo entrance, \$2 carousel and miniature “Santa Train” rides will be available.

Petruzzelli said that with so many people in the park, there aren’t really any ways to avoid the crowds, but she said that the off-peak hours are 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, before the museums open for free and the holiday lights are illuminated.

Parking is always a challenge for December Nights, so visitors are encouraged to park along Park Boulevard at Inspiration Point and at the San Diego Zoo. Free shuttle service is offered from San Diego City College or the San Diego County Administration building (1600 Pacific Highway). Both shuttle stops are next to San Diego Trolley stops (Petco Park and lots at Park Boulevard and Imperial will offer \$3 parking).

Visit [balboapark.org/december-nights](http://balboapark.org/december-nights).



## Night & Day

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3

# In Scrooge-free season, these shows are Ebenezer-esque

BY JAMES HEBERT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010 AT 12:05 P.M.

For the first time in recent memory, the holiday theater scene is nearly (and weirdly) Scrooge-free. No professional theaters around town are doing Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" this year, beyond a brief workshop production (long since closed) at New Village Arts and one short-run improv show at North Coast Rep.

But the elusiveness of Ebenezer doesn't mean there's nowhere in the county to get your fix of meanie-meets-enlightenment holiday cheer. Plenty of other stage shows offer at least a taste of "Christmas Carol"-style redemption, minus the infernal clanking of Jacob Marley's chains.

The watchword for this holiday: Ebenezer-esque.

(Signed, Scroogeless in San Diego)

"La Pastorela de Libertad": You can't get much more Scrooge-y than that hoarder of souls, the Prince of Darkness. This latest edition of Teatro Mascara Magica's Mexican-inspired holiday show pits Lucifer and his goons against the forces of Michael the Archangel. The production, featuring Christmas carols sung in Spanish, continues Dec. 18-19 at the Rep's Lyceum Theatre downtown. (619) 544-1000 or sdrep.org

"It's a Wonderful Life": Ah, Mr. Potter — so rich, so cruel, so not getting a Christmas card from the Baileys. Welcome to Team Ebenezer, Mr. P! The antagonist of the Frank Capra movie gets to grump around in two live-radio-style adaptations this season: at Cygnet Theatre through Dec. 31, (619) 337-1525 or cygnettheatre.com; and at the Welk Resorts Theatre through Dec. 30. (888) 802-7469 or welktheatresandiego.com

"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!": Let's face it, the Grinch is basically Ebenezer gone green. Dr. Seuss' gift-grabbing cretin holds forth at the Old Globe Theatre through Dec. 26. (619) 234-5623 or theoldglobe.org

"An Unscripted Carol": North Coast Rep's two-day show (Dec. 20-21), presented with Impro Theatre of Los Angeles, is an improv take on Dickens, so almost anything could happen. (Like, say, the Cratchits going after Scrooge with a hatchet.) Besides that piece, NCRT also is staging the new holiday cabaret show "Mistletoe, Music and Mayhem" (Dec. 16-18) by Phil Johnson and Matt Thompson (two talented and funny local actor-writers), with music and lyrics by Rayme Sciaroni; and "Sister's Christmas Catechism" (Dec. 22-23), featuring a no-nonsense nun hunting "CSI"-style for the Merri's gold. (858) 481-1055 or northcoastrep.org



/ CHARLES S. REECE

Jeffrey Solomon in Diversionary Theatre's "Santa Claus is Coming Out."



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**Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!**  
Tuesday, Dec 14, 7:00 pm  
Old Globe Theatre, San Diego

**National Comedy Theatre show**  
Friday, Dec 17, 7:30 pm  
National Comedy Theatre, San Diego

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## San Diego Weekend Events

Posted by [Katrina Cabral](#) on November 18, 2010 · [Leave a Comment](#)

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We're only one week away from Thanksgiving Day and holiday celebrations start now with a weekend of festive fun and local love. But don't get out those turkey basters just yet! Check out some of the exciting events happening in your county. From culinary classes to comedy shows, San Diego welcomes a multitude of talent and treasure to its finest venues and landmarks.





Thursday, November 18

[The 7th Annual San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival](#) kicked-off the five-day celebration yesterday with the San Diego Wine Rave. The festivities continue through Sunday with a daily [Tastemaker Dinner Series](#) featuring local market chefs teaming up with celebrities of the culinary world. Special classes for tonight include [The Creative Process of Chocolate Making](#) and [The Art of Tequila](#).

Several great acts hit the Gaslamp Quarter to provide locals and visitors with awesome entertainment. If you're in the mood for some belly busters, bounce over to the Balboa Theater for [The Comedy Road Show](#) with **Vince Vaughn** (*Wedding Crashers*) and **Kevin James** (*King of Queens*).



Feeling fly *like a G6*? [Far East Movement](#) rockets their way from your radio waves over to Voyeur at 9pm for a live show. Also check out **Pepper** with **Fishbone** and **Pour Habit** as they bring down the House of Blues for an all-ages show as part of the [Like a Surgeon Tour](#).

Friday, November 19

The three-day long [Del Mar Antique Show](#) starts today! Catch a ride over to the O'Brien Hall at the fairgrounds for several days of shopping through aged treasures. Appraisers are also available at the show to value collectibles for a small fee.

Couldn't make the **Pepper** show Thursday night? No worries. The boys of the [Like a Surgeon Tour](#) are back for an extra 21+ round of fun at the House of Blues Friday night. Dimpled crooner **Bruno Mars** loves you *just the way you are*, so hopefully you're a part of the lucky audience reciprocating the love at his sold-out show in the UCSD Price Center.

Saturday, November 20



Come celebrate the holidays at the San Diego [USO Holiday Concert](#) as the Navy Band Southwest and Peter North, the original voice of Charlie Brown, entertain the crowd. Admission is free, however they do ask for a donation of a new unwrapped toy to be given to a child of an active duty member. Tonight also marks the opening night for [Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas](#) at The Old Globe Theater which runs until December 26th, 2010.

Support the local [San Diego State Aztecs](#) as they take on the **Utah Utes** at Qualcomm Stadium, go see [Lifehouse](#) at the Pechanga Theater with American Idol alum **Kris Allen** OR hit the House of Blues to hear [Unwritten Law](#) with guests **Authority Zero**, **Best Regret** and **Super Groupie**.



Sunday, November 21

Rally the kids and drive down to El Cajon to check out the amazing floats lined up for the [64<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother Goose Parade](#). The family fun continues with a musical adventure at the Balboa Theater for the [Toy Stories Family Concert](#) as well as a full day of autumn activities and shopping sprees at the [Encinitas Fall Festival](#).

Gather at the Old Globe's Copley Plaza for this year's [Grinch Christmas Tree Lighting](#) with the cast of Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" or hop over to the House of Blues for a special [Local Brews, Local Grooves All-Access](#) treat as the main stage features some of the best acts in town.

#### Take a Peek into Next Week

Mon, Nov 22 – **The Sadies** featuring **The Loons** at The Casbah  
 Tues, Nov 23 – **Black Mountain** and the **Black Angels** at the Belly Up Tavern  
 Wed, Nov 24 – **31st Annual San Diego Thanksgiving Dixieland Jazz Festival**  
 Thurs, Nov 25 – **THANKSGIVING!**  
 Fri, Nov 26 – **Trans-Siberian Orchestra** at the San Diego Sports Arena  
 Sat, Nov 27 – **Soulfly** with **Desperate Union** at the House of Blues  
 Sun, Nov 28 – **Son Cubano Night** with **Combo Libertad** at Belly Up

*Music artists' photos courtesy of GEt A LiFE, Michi Moore Images, clogozm via flickr. The Grinch Lighting photo comes courtesy of The Old Globe Theater.*

Filed under [Event](#), [New](#) · Tagged with [Aztecs](#), [bay](#), [bruno mars](#), [chocolate](#), [christmas tree lighting](#), [del mar antique show](#), [Dr. Seuss](#), [Far East Movement](#), [fishbone](#), [food & wine festival](#), [holiday](#), [House of Blues](#), [How the Grinch Stole Christmas!](#), [kevin james](#), [kris allen](#), [Lifehouse](#), [like a surgeon tour](#), [local brews](#), [local grooves](#), [mother goose parade](#), [pepper](#), [San Diego](#), [san diego state](#), [Tequila](#), [the comedy road show](#), [uso holiday concert](#), [utah utes](#), [Vince Vaughn](#)

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# inthewings

## theater

THERE'S NO ESCAPING the holidays at the theater this month: The **Grinch** returns reliably to the Globe, which also has *Forever Plaid*'s holiday show **Plaid Tidings** (both through Dec. 26). But you never know what to expect at Lamb's Players' **Festival of Christmas**, which presents a different, original Christmas play each year; and for the fifth consecutive year, Cygnet reimagines Capra's **It's a Wonderful Life** as a live radio play. Craving a break from holiday fare? Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer-winning **Ruined** is at the Playhouse through Dec. 19, and the sultry, New Orleans musical **Storyville** is at S.D. Rep till Dec. 12. And, oh, to be among the lucky few holding a ticket to the Globe's one-night-only **Celebrity Autobiography: In Their Own Words** (Dec. 6). Special guests John Goodman, Marion Ross and Kathy Najimy will read from the memoirs of stars ranging from Suzanne Somers to Liz Taylor.



John Goodman in the Globe's *Celebrity Autobiography*



City Ballet's *Nutcracker*

## dance

'TIS THE SEASON to throw open the doors to Fritz, Clara, the Sugar Plum Fairy and all the rest: Yes, it's **Nutcracker** time again, and there's no shortage of ballet companies performing Tchaikovsky's holiday classic around town this month. San Diego Ballet celebrates its 20th year of dancing the show with a cast of 100 dancers and performances spread over two weekends at two locations (Dec. 4-5 at the Birch Theatre in North Park, accompanied by the Grossmont Symphony, and Dec. 16-17 at Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD). Dec. 17 and 18, West Coast Ballet Theatre promises a cast of 200 for its family-oriented performances at California Center for the Arts, Escondido, plus accompaniment by the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra. City Ballet stages its version Dec. 10-12 and 17-19 at the Spreckels Theatre downtown; the Saturday matinees will also feature an optional pre-show luncheon for kids and adults, complete with tableside visits from *Nutcracker* characters.



# NORTH COUNTY TIMES

November 28, 2010

**GO CELEBRATE  
THE NIGHT**

## DECEMBER NIGHTS RETURNS FRIDAY

**BY PAM KRAGEN**  
[pkragen@nctimes.com](mailto:pkragen@nctimes.com)

**SAN DIEGO** — More than 300,000 people are expected to pack Balboa Park's 33rd annual December Nights festival next weekend, which features free museum admission, continuous live entertainment and gifts and food from around the world.

The festival runs from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday and from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday.

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Because the crowds are always so huge, Petruzzelli advises visitors to use public transportation, avoid driving on Highway 163, and arrive early both days to beat the crush.

Featured events include around-the-clock live choir, dancing, music and theater entertainment throughout the park; a holiday marketplace; children's craft activities; strolling carolers and musicians; art exhibits; and shopping specials in museum gift shops.

Santa Claus will also be here, there and everywhere both days, with appearances scheduled in at least five locations: the San Diego Automotive Museum, Casa del Prado, Community Christmas Center, San Diego Air and Space Museum and Spanish Village Art Center.

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## Nights

Continued from Page F1

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Among the highlights at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion will be Del Cerro Baptist's annual "Christmas Story Tree" production, a dazzling music and light extravaganza from 8:30 to

See **Nights, F3**





**Crowds pack the Plaza de Panama in San Diego's Balboa Park during the 2007 celebration of December Nights.**

Courtesy of Robert Benton

10 p.m. both nights. The program features an 80-voice choir and drama team presenting the story of Christmas in music and living scenes.

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The Palisades Midway will serve as the family zone, where carnival rides, arcade games and activities will be presented.

In the Plaza de Panama, the Bon Temps Social Club as well as other Cajun/zydeco performers from around San Diego will perform. Also on the Plaza, SeaWorld San Diego will host an animal meet-and-greet and photo area and will offer information on seasonal events at the theme park.

San Diego Gas & Electric will light the nights with a 20,000-LED light canopy over the Plaza de Panama,

and they'll be offering a Christmas tree light exchange program. Park visitors who bring old, energy-gobbling tree light strands to the Plaza de Panama can exchange them for free, energy-saving LED light strings while supplies last (bring valid California ID or a copy of your SDG&E bill to participate).

Vendor booths will be set up near the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and San Diego Natural History Museum. The Cascades Holiday Marketplace will offer crafts and food for sale, as well as live entertainment.

As in years past, the International Cottages' Christmas Festival will feature holiday decor and ethnic dance and music on the half-hour, as well as a food fair featuring dishes from 30 countries, including Colombian carne asada, German bratwurst, Indian naan bread and tikka masala, Czech sauerkraut, Norwegian waffles, Panamanian coconut rice and Palestinian falafel. There will also be a beer and wine garden where samples of ethnic drinks — like Swedish *glogg*, Mexican coffee, Peruvian Pisco Sour, Panamanian rum, Chinese beer and English whiskey — will be sold.

At the Spanish Village Art Center, all 37 studios will be open with exhibits on display, food for sale, photos

with Santa and live entertainment both evenings by dulcimer player Scott Williams, carolers and a barbershop quartet.

Again this year, the historical Moreton Bay fig tree will be illuminated and decorated. The huge tree fills an entire block-sized square behind the San Diego Natural History Museum. Also decorated with lights will be the Spreckels Organ Pavilion and the California Tower at the Museum of Man.

The San Diego Zoo will be closed during evening hours both nights, but it will offer \$4 round-trip rides on the Skyfari. Outside the zoo entrance, \$2 carousel and miniature "Santa Train" rides will be available.

Petrizzelli said that with so many people in the park, there aren't really any ways to avoid the crowds, but she said that the off-peak hours are 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, before the museums open for free and the holiday lights are illuminated.

Parking is always a challenge for December Nights, so visitors are encouraged to park along Park Boulevard at Inspiration Point and at the San Diego Zoo. Free shuttle service is offered from San Diego City College or the San Diego County Administration building (1600 Pacific Highway). Both shuttle stops are next to San Diego Trolley stops (Petco Park and lots at Park Boulevard and Imperial will offer \$3 parking).

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## LA JOLLA LIGHT

Enlightening La Jolla since 1913



La Jolla, CA

### Weather

63°F,  
Partly  
Cloudy

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# 53rd annual La Jolla Christmas Parade & Holiday Festival is Dec. 5



Click on the map to download a PDF of the parade route.





Santa will make a return visit to the La Jolla Christmas Parade this Sunday. Photo: Light file

DAVE SCHWAB  
*Staff Writer*

The aquatic-themed 53rd annual La Jolla Christmas Parade & Holiday Festival — complete with lifeguards as grand marshals and Ali Baba the camel — will roll out in style Sunday, starting at 2 p.m. in the downtown Village.

The youth-oriented event sponsored by La Jolla Town Council and titled “Christmas By The Sea” annually draws 20,000-plus guests to the Jewel, with another 1,200 people participating in marching bands, ROTC units, drill teams, dancers, scout troops, float builders, equestrians, car aficionados, Santa Claus, the Old Globe Grinch and VIPs young and old.

Each year the parade kicks off with Cub Scouts of La Jolla leading the way carrying the parade banners down Girard Avenue from Kline Street to Prospect Street. The parade culminates at La Jolla Rec Center where a family-oriented Holiday Festival ensues at 3:30 p.m., followed by the traditional lighting ceremony of the Sunrise Rotary Christmas Tree at 4 p.m.

But Kerr Bache said people need to be aware that cars will be towed and ticketed if people don’t heed the warning signs. (See list below for street closures.) Last year, 37 cars were towed, she added.

Each year in its selection of parade marshals the parade committee, chaired by Ann Kerr Bache, emphasizes values of education, philanthropy, culture and service, while also honoring local citizens of achievement. For the second year, youth marshals selected from local schools acknowledging high-achieving students have been added to the slate of parade VIPs.

Floats are always a big parade attraction, with judges awarding prizes in various categories including Best Overall, Most Holiday Spirit, Most Original, Most Creative, Most Colorful, and Santa’s Favorite.

One of the largely unheralded stars of the La Jolla Christmas Parade show, Ali Baba the camel. Ali Baba will not only strut his stuff in the parade, but afterwards participates in La Jolla Presbyterian Church’s annual Nativity scene reenactment.

“We have the camel dressed up in his Nativity costume walking in the parade with high school kids, and afterward they come back to the church’s courtyard where we do Christmas decorating with cookies for children and a live nativity scene near the sanctuary which is a church tradition,” said Megan Albe, La Jolla Presbyterian Church’s youth and children ministry coordinator. “We’re also going to have a donkey and two sheep.”

Albe said the general public is invited to take pictures at the Nativity scene which goes on for an hour and a half or so after the end of the parade.

The parade and festival costs about \$45,000 to stage, said Kerr Bache. Parade chair Kerr Bache noted though that 70 percent of parade donations are in smaller denominations, mostly from individuals.

Parade sponsors for 2010, groups or individuals donating \$5,000 or more, included Audrey Geisel and the Seuss Foundation, County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price and La Valencia Hotel.

For more information visit [www.ljparade.com](http://www.ljparade.com).

#### **IF YOU GO:**

Click on this map to download a PDF for garages offering complimentary parking to take with you.

There is an area set aside with disability access in a prime viewing location at the kickoff and the Parade Assembly areas. It has chairs and nurses stationed nearby. There are ADA bathrooms a short distance away and ADA Parking in the Bank of America parking lot. There are also ADA bathrooms and parking near the recreation center as well.

## ARTS

### 'Music and Mayhem' a New Holiday Tradition at North Coast Rep

The theatre premieres a new local comic creation.

By **Pat Launer** 9:33am

The title, *Mistletoe, Music and Mayhem*, says it all—especially the "music and mayhem" part. The show is a wacky, homegrown cabaret filled with sketch comedy and original songs.

"It all came together really fast," says co-creator Matt Thompson, who collaborated with comic actor Phil Johnson (currently appearing in "The Grinch" at the Old Globe) and composer Rayme Sciaroni, who wrote the music and lyrics.

"There was an open slot to fill in the [North Coast Rep] season, and I felt sure that we could come up with something fun," says Thompson, who helms the Theatre School at North Coast Repertory Theatre. He's a playwright, actor and director who honed his improv skills with the famous Second City troupe, where he also learned the art of sketch comedy writing.

"We put it all together in about six weeks," says Thompson, who also has Shakespearean acting experience. But none of that will trickle in here; this one's strictly for light, silly, comic fun.

The 85-minute evening of holiday hijinks includes six skits and seven songs.

"It runs the gamut from very sweet and tender to uproariously funny," Thompson promises.

"Santa and Emily," for example, pits the red-suited fat guy against a bratty and precocious Jewish girl who refuses to get off Santa's lap, insisting on finding exactly who and what Santa is, and how he fits into the universe.

In the opening number "Holidays Around the World," we're shown, in wildly exaggerated form, how the season is celebrated in Iceland, Japan, Norway, Germany—and North County ("Surf's Up, Santa! Christmas in Solana Beach" is the song for that section).

"In Sweden," Thompson explains, "they wear giant wreaths on their heads and walk around with a gnome named Tonte—you know, that's where gnomes from—wishing everyone holiday cheer."

"Cats for the Holidays" includes a visit with the Cyzlinski family, an odd assortment who carol as cats and perform an interpretive dance.

Sciaroni, a busy local composer, accompanist and music director, also provides the choreography.

There are quick costume changes and "Clashing Carols," with four competing singers crooning at once. And in the audience participation part of the evening gets "a GPS with attitude," which helps him make his way to New Jersey, where he visits with special celebrities (played by willing audience volunteers)

For the doubters out there, "I Exist" will put your skepticism to rest, as Santa, an angel, Scrooge, an elf and the Sugarplum Fairy try to justify their existence.

Thompson says the question is: "Do we just conjure them up during the holidays, or do they only exist in the light of a child's eyes?"

With all the shifting tones, locales, accents and dialects, coupled with the musical variations, the cast for this kind of show is crucial. The collaborators lined up some of San Diego's best musical and comedy talents: Karson St. John, Jacque Wilke, Tony Houck, Kevin Koppman-Gue and BJ Lawrence.

Here's a chance to get in on the ground-floor of a budding new tradition. Carol on!

*Mistletoe, Music and Mayhem* runs December 16 - 18 at 7:30 p.m. and December 19 at 2 p.m. at North Coast Repertory Theatre.

Tickets (\$20-25) are available at 858-481-1055 or [northcoastrep.org](http://www.northcoastrep.org) (<http://www.northcoastrep.org>)



SEE NEXT IN ARTS





Courtesy photo

*DESPITE a long staring-contest, the Grinch at the Old Globe Theater could not get Daniel Painter to smile when the two met on Nov. 30 after the performance. The green guy who has a change of heart came outside to greet the 90 schoolchildren from Borrego Springs Elementary School. Daniel Arias is shown at back.*

Grinch helps bring holiday spirit to 90 local elementary students

There might have been a grinch, but there wasn't a scrooge when it came to Borrego Springs Elementary School this holiday season.

That's because thanks to several organizations and Audrey Steele Burnand, 90 – that's right 90 – local students were treated to a luxury bus ride to see the Old Globe Theater's production of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas." The Nov. 30 field trip was made possible by a grant from the Old Globe Theater.

Additionally, Random House donated a free Dr. Suess book to each of the children who went on the field trip.

Burnand donated the \$3,600 needed to transport the large group of students on two coaches to San Diego for the event. The children were also treated to a free visit to the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

First-grade teacher Heidi Noyes applied for the grant that paid for the tickets for 90 students and 10 adults.

Students who had the best attendance were selected first, followed by teacher recommendations.

Some students who didn't get to take the trip watched the movie version of "The Grinch" for part of the afternoon at school.

# POWAY NEWS CHIEFTAIN

August 26, 2010

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## ENTERTAINMENT**CALENDAR**



**ON SALE SEPT. 3** — Single tickets for the Old Globes production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" will go on sale at noon Friday, Sept. 3. The production runs Nov. 20 through Dec. 26 at the theater. For more information, go to [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org).



# NORTH COUNTY TIMES

October 28, 2010

PREVIEW SECTION

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## BACKSTAGE



### PAM KRAGEN

The Old Globe is doubling up on its holiday-themed entertainment this fall. Besides presenting its 13th annual production of **"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas"** Nov. 20-Dec. 26, the Globe will also stage the musical **"Plaid Tidings"** Nov. 27-Dec. 26 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

"Plaid Tidings" is a holiday version of Start Ross' long-running musical "Forever Plaid," which was first presented at the Old Globe in 1991.

# SAN DIEGO FAMILY MAGAZINE

November 2010

Calendar • **November**

Jennifer A. Burman

Things change. That's why we've included phone numbers and websites when available. Since most activities require advance reservations or have limited space, please call first to confirm dates, times and admission prices.



## Dr. Seuss'

### "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

America's favorite holiday fable 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.

**Nov. 26-Dec. 26.** Visit website for showtimes. \$20-\$77; ages 2 & under free. The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org); 619-23-GLOBE.





# NORTH COUNTY TIMES

November 14, 2010

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**SATURDAY, NOV. 20**



**ROBERT HOLTS**

**ORCHESTRA** — With as many as 19 musicians and eight vocalists, this big band performs hot jazz and cool swing; 7 p.m.; California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido; \$18-\$30; 800-988-4253 or [artcenter.org](http://artcenter.org).

**MEN OF WORTH** — Irishman James Keigher and Scotsman Donnie Macdonald met through Southern California's Celtic music scene; 7:30 p.m.; San Dieguito United Methodist Church, 170 Calle Magdalena, Encinitas; \$18; 858-566-4040 or [sdfolkheritage.org](http://sdfolkheritage.org).

**UNWRITTEN LAW** — Longtime San Diego rock band has a new disc coming in 2011. Authority Zero, Best Regret and Super Groupie open; 8 p.m.; House of Blues San Diego, 1055 Fifth Ave., San Diego; \$20-\$40; 619-299-2583 or [hob.com/sandiego](http://hob.com/sandiego).

**"GRINCH" PREVIEWS HIS THEFT OF CHRISTMAS**

— The Old Globe presents its 13th annual production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," the Mel Marvin/Timothy Mason musical that brings Dr. Seuss' holiday classic story to life onstage; previews: 7 p.m. (also 4:30 p.m. Nov. 21); preview through Nov. 26; Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$39-\$77, adults; \$20-\$57, children; 619-234-5623 or [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org).



# LOS ANGELES TIMES

November 21, 2010

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## THEATER

### Openings

**Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!** James Vasquez directs this 13th annual production of Timothy Mason and Mel Marvin's whimsical holiday musical fable based on the classic Dr. Seuss book. Jeff Skowron heads the cast as the Grinch. The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat.-next Sun., 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m.; ends Dec. 26. \$39-\$77. (619) 234-5623.



## This week in and around La Jolla

### BEST BETS



#### 4. Grinch Is Back!

**4.** **Grinch is Back!** 13th annual "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," musical set in snow-covered Who-ville, matinees and evenings, Nov. 20-Dec. 26, Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. Tickets for kids \$57-\$20; adults \$77-\$39. The Old Globe Christmas Tree Lighting (tree was designed by Grinch scenic man John Lee Beatty for the center of the Globe Plaza, up for the run of the show) will feature a special live performance by members of the "Grinch" and "Plaid Tidings" casts, plus a holiday snowfall on the plaza. Tickets to this free event are included with tickets to the 4:30 p.m. Nov. 21 "Grinch" performance. (619) 234-5623. [oldglobe.org](http://oldglobe.org).

## APPLAUSE

BY PHYLLIS DeBLANCHE

### PLAYING AROUND

**Holly Days:** *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* turns the Old Globe green through Dec. 26 (619-234-5623, [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org)), with *Plaid Tidings* dashing into the White Theatre Nov. 27–Dec. 26. Lamb's celebrates with *It's Christmas and It's Live!* on the company's stage Nov. 30–Dec. 30 and *An American Christmas* settling in at Hotel del Coronado Dec. 12–26 (619-437-0600, [lambplayers.org](http://lambplayers.org)). Angels get down to Earth in *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, at Cygnet Nov. 26–Dec. 31 (619-337-1525, [cygnettheatre.com](http://cygnettheatre.com)) and Welk Resorts Theatre through Jan. 2, alternating with *A Big Band Christmas* (888-802-SHOW, [welktheatresandiego.com](http://welktheatresandiego.com)). At New Village Arts, delightfully sardonic *The Santaland Diaries* offers an antidote to sugary holiday shows, Dec. 2–24 (760-433-3245, [newvillagearts.org](http://newvillagearts.org)). Diversionary's *Santa Claus Is Coming Out* plays Dec. 4–21 (619-220-0097, [diversionary.org](http://diversionary.org)).

**Big Bag o' Gifts:** North Coast Repertory proffers five shows this month: *How Do You Spell Chanukkah?*, Dec. 3–5; *Nevermore: An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe*, Dec. 9–12; *Mistletoe, Music and Mayhem*, Dec. 16–19; *An Unscripted Carol*, Dec. 20 & 21; *Sister's Christmas Catechism*, Dec. 22–24 (858-481-1055, [northcoastrep.org](http://northcoastrep.org)).

**Shades of Love:** Broadway/San Diego turns the Civic Theatre *The Color Purple* Dec. 3–5 (619-570-1100, [broadwaysd.com](http://broadwaysd.com)).



PAUL KOLNIK

### Brawling in N'awlins:

The San Diego Rep's lively *Storyville* tells its jazzy tale through Dec. 12 (619-544-1000, [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org)).

**Congo Lines:** Pulitzer-winning *Ruined* delves into the fate of women during war in the Congo, at La Jolla Playhouse through Dec. 19 (858-550-1010, [lajollaplayhouse.org](http://lajollaplayhouse.org)).

**Back to the '80s:** In the Gaslamp, Lamb's Players' hit *miXtape* has been extended through Dec. 19 (619-437-0600, [lambplayers.org](http://lambplayers.org)).



## APPLAUSE

### PLAY IT AGAIN

**Congo Lines:** Pulitzer-winning *Ruined* explores what happens to women during war in the Congo, at La Jolla Playhouse Nov. 16–Dec. 19 (858-550-1010, [lajollaplayhouse.org](http://lajollaplayhouse.org)).

**All That and Jazz:** Mardi Gras comes to the Gaslamp early in the San Diego Rep's lively *Storyville*, Nov. 13–Dec. 12 (619-544-1000, [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org)).

**Sidekick Schtick:** *The Barber of Seville* helps his former boss get the girl in Rossini's famed comic opera, staged by Lyric at the Birch Nov. 12–21 (619-239-8836, [lyricoperasandiego.org](http://lyricoperasandiego.org)).

**Rotating Stages:** *Broadway Bound* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* take turns on The Globe's main stage through Nov. 7, followed by *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Nov. 20–Dec. 26; *Welcome to Arroyo's* plays the White Theatre through Oct. 31, then goes to Lincoln High School Center for the Arts Nov. 4–7 so *The Winter's Tale* can step in, Nov. 7–14 (619-234-5623, [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org)).

**Twice as Wonderful:** Cygnet sends an angel flying in Old Town with its fifth annual presentation of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, Nov. 26–Dec. 31 (619-337-1525, [cygnettheatre.com](http://cygnettheatre.com)); Welk Resorts Theatre offers its version in Escondido, Nov. 18–Jan. 2 (888-802-SHOW, [welktheatresandiego.com](http://welktheatresandiego.com)).

**From Gospel to Nativity to the '80s:** In Coronado, Lamb's Players Theatre finishes *The Glory Man* Nov. 14 and dives into its yearly Festival of Christmas, reprising *It's Christmas and It's Live!* Nov. 30–Dec. 30; in the Gaslamp, *miXtape* has been extended (again) through Nov. 21 (619-437-0600, [lambplayers.org](http://lambplayers.org)).

**And More Gospel:** Stitches in time abound in gospel-laced *Gee's Bend*, at North Coast Repertory Theatre through Nov. 7 (858-481-1055, [northcoastrep.org](http://northcoastrep.org)).

**Strident Bryant:** Diversionary Theatre lands the San Diego premiere of touching, tickling comedy *Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins*, Oct. 28–Nov. 21 (619-220-0097, [diversionary.org](http://diversionary.org)).

**One Last Stand:** *The Norman Conquests* occupies Cygnet Theatre through Nov. 7 (619-337-1525, [cygnettheatre.com](http://cygnettheatre.com)).



CRAIG SCHWARTZ



## TOP TEN



FULL STEAM AHEAD "Art After Dark" goes steampunk at OMA.

### 1 ART AFTER DARK

What is steampunk? Think Marquis de Sade meets *Blade Runner*. This month's "Art After Dark" will be rife with the Brit-inspired art. Rock out with local band Manganista, check out works by *Riviera* favorite Greg Brotherton and sip on handcrafted brews from S.D.'s Lost Abbey. **Nov. 5.** At *Oceanside Museum of Art*, 760.435.3720, [oma-online.org](http://oma-online.org).

### 2 SAN DIEGO BEER WEEK

San Diego defends its title as craft beer capital during the second annual S.D. Beer Week. Sip on rare brews, take a bartending class or chow down at a beer dinner, like the "Chef Celebration" at the Lodge at Torrey Pines (Nov. 14). This isn't your Miller-and-Bud kind of showcase; this is yeast-art. **Nov. 5-14.** At multiple locations, [sdbw.org](http://sdbw.org).

| By Megan Gallagher |

### 3 PROJECT CONCERN INTERNATIONAL

S.D.-based Project Concern International started in Tijuana in 1961 with a simple goal: bring health to the world's neediest. Now it has outposts in 16 countries (including the U.S.) and cares for 4 million people. Their 50th anniversary gala honors the man who started it all, Dr. James Turpin. **Nov. 6.** At the *Del Mar Fairgrounds*, [projectconcern.org](http://projectconcern.org).

### 4 CHAIRS FOR CHAIRITY

Local design buffs like Arclinea's Lisda Wilson-Wirth, Esteban Lopez (Esteban Interiors), Michael Soriano (Onairos Design) and *Riviera* ed-in-chief Gillian Flynn will craft their dream chairs for the second annual "CHAIRS for CHAIRity." **Nov. 10.** At *Hold It Contemporary Home*, 619.295.6660, [holdithome.com](http://holdithome.com).

### 5 WILLY HECKS

For the solo exhibit "Ocean House Paintings," award-winning abstract artist Willy Heeks pairs brightly colored oils with acrylics, turning organized chaos into lively art. All of the work is inspired by the enviable view from his seaside studio. **Nov. 12-Jan. 8.** At *Scott White Contemporary Art*, 619.501.5689, [scottwhiteart.com](http://scottwhiteart.com).

### 6 PHOTO EXPO WEST

The West Coast's largest photog fest features exhibits, live gadget demos and advice from the pros. Chat one-on-one with David Stoecklein, talk sports with Seattle Seahawks shutterbug Rod Mar, or get celeb stories from portrait master Judy Host. **Nov. 13-14.** At the *Del Mar Fairgrounds*, [sandiegophotoexpo.com](http://sandiegophotoexpo.com).

### 7 RUINED

Inspired by a trip through Uganda, playwright Lynn Nottage delivers *Ruined*, a portrayal of war-torn life in the Congo. The play snagged the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for drama and has brought Nottage to the forefront of international politics. **Nov. 16-Dec. 19.** At *La Jolla Playhouse*, 858.550.1010, [lajollaplayhouse.org](http://lajollaplayhouse.org).

### 8 MIKE HYNSON

Surf icon. Outlaw. Designer. How's that for a list of life experiences? Mike Hynson may be the only man to ask. Catch the sly guy on his *Transcendental Memories of a Surf Rebel* book tour, recapping his globe-trotting surfer days. **Nov. 18.** At *California Surf Museum*, 760.721.6876, [www.surfmuseum.org](http://www.surfmuseum.org).

### 9 BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU

The release of the big, jammy, fun-for-all wine known as Beaujolais is an international event. Westgate hosts its annual Beaujolais Nouveau tasting, with two glasses of the world-famous wine and a three-course meal by French chef Fabrice Hardel. Cheers! **Nov. 19.** At *Westgate Hotel*, 619.238.1818, [westgatehotel.com](http://westgatehotel.com).

### 10 HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

Nothing stokes the gift-hungry spirit of Xmas quite like the moss-colored grump. And San Diego—home to Dr. Seuss' widow, Audrey Geisel—is where the annual stage adaptation of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* started. **Nov. 20-Dec. 26.** At the *Old Globe Theatre*, 619.234.5623, [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org).



# SAN DIEGO READER

December 10, 2010

CALENDAR

## Calendar THEATER

## THEATER LISTINGS

### Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

The Old Globe Theatre stages its traditional holiday show, in which a green meanie threatens festivities in Whoville. James Vasquez directed.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.

7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 11AM, 2PM & 5PM SATURDAYS, 11AM, 2PM & 5PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 26.



Green meanie Mr. Grinch threatens Christmas at the Globe.

### Plaid Tidings

"A Plaid's gotta do what a Plaid's gotta do." In this case, come back to life during the holidays and figure out why they've come back. Okay, the frame tale isn't much, but performances by Leo Daignault, David Brannen, Michael Winther, and especially Jason Heil (allowed to showcase his versatility) make for an always entertaining evening. And for a group of admittedly virginal males, who were "semi-pro" singers at best, the vocals and arrangements (often "hybrid" songs) are quite sophisticated.

#### Worth a try:

SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 26.



The boys are back in *Plaid Tidings* at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park.

# San Diego's Holiday Theater Season 2010

by [Derek Smith](#) October 26, 2010

[San Diego Family](#) [San Diego Holiday](#) [San Diego Theater](#)

- 3
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Well, it's that time again: break out your Leg Lamps, Bundt Pans and Menorahs, San Dieg-ites. ChistmaHanaQuanzika is upon us!

Now as much as you love (hate) going to see that beautiful (three hour) production of The Nutcracker Ballet every year with the whole family (including but not limited to crying babies and texting teenagers), why don't you go see something anyone you invite will love? BELIEVE ME: This is coming from the kid who, at the age of 7, put on his own Nutcracker Ballet (complete with a cast of neighborhood kids, sound effects and printed programs) in his room. Even I, who once admittedly cried during the ever-so-moving Waltz of the Flowers, get sick of The Nutcracker Ballet.

Do yourself a favor and try out something new this year. San Diego's got plenty of theater picks this season and here's an easy breakdown for the most popular choices all over San Diego County.

## NEW VILLAGE ARTS, Carlsbad

SHOW: *Santaland Diaries*

By David Sedaris, Adapted by Joe Mantello

Directed by Kristianne Kurner

WHAT: A hilarious one-man play (starring NVA's own Darren Scott) based on the award winning essay by David Sedaris about a 30-something man who's hired as an Elf for Macy's Santaland.

WHEN: December 2-22nd

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)



A  
CHRISTMAS CAROL  
CHARLES DICKENS

SHOW: *A Christmas Carol*

By Charles Dickens

Newly Adapted by NVA's Rachel VanWormer and Brian Mackey

WHAT: The only *Christmas Carol* production in San Diego this year is a brand new adaptation that's workshopping as a part of [NVA's New Play Festival](#). Adapted to preserve the original words of Charles Dickens, this version celebrates the language from the original book by Mr. Dickens.

WHEN: November 26th-28th

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

## CYGNET THEATRE, Old Town, San Diego

SHOW: *It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play*

By Joe Landry Directed by Sean Murray

WHAT: Presented for its 5th year, the famous story of George Bailey and Clarence the Angel is brought to life as a 1940's live radio play, filled with music, live sound effects and plenty of heart.



WHEN: November 26th-December 31st

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)



### ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, Chula Vista and San Diego

SHOW: *A Taffeta Christmas*

By Rick Lewis Directed by John Fitzpatrick

WHAT: A 1950's Musical Review. It's the 1950's and the Dumont Television Network is featuring Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl and Donna on its weekly television show "Hometown Hoedown."

WHEN: December 2-12, theater location varies with date.

See details [HERE](#)

### THE OLD GLOBE, Balboa Park, San Diego

SHOW: *Plaid Tidings: A Special Holiday Edition of Forever Plaid*

Written, Directed and Choreographed by Stuart Ross

WHAT: Encouraged by a heavenly phone call from Rosemary Clooney, the high-spirited boys of Forever Plaid – Frankie, Sparky, Jinx and Smudge – are transported from the ethereal cosmos to stage a nostalgic holiday extravaganza tuffed with such "Plaid-erized" Christmas standards as "Mr. Santa," "Let It Snow" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

WHEN: November 27th-December 26th



### SHOW: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Book and Lyrics by Timothy Mason, Music by Mel Marvin

Directed by James Vasquez

WHAT: Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for its 13th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "This Time of Year," "Santa for a Day" and "Fah Who Doraze," the delightful carol from the popular animated version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

TICKET INFO FOR BOTH SHOWS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

### CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THEATER, Downtown San Diego

SHOW: Tradition of Christmas: A Musical Spectacular

WHAT: A celebration with high-kicking Rockette-style dancers, Santa and his workshop of elves, and a live Nativity Pageant.

WHEN: December 17th-23rd

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

### LAMBS PLAYERS, Downtown San Diego

SHOW: Festival of Christmas

Written and Directed by Kerry Meads

WHAT: An energetic quartet getting their big break on a TV variety show is about to get an even bigger break as a blizzard shuts down New York and showbiz pandemonium ensues inside the studio.

WHEN: November 30th-December 30th

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

### **NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATER, Solana Beach**

WHAT: Five different holiday shows as a part of their "Off-Nights" series. Holiday shows include *How Do You Spell Chanukah?*, Jeffery Combs in *Nevermore*, *Mistletoe*, *Music and Mayhem*, *Dickens Unscripted*, and *Sister's Christmas Catechism*

MORE INFO [HERE](#)



### **DIVERSIONARY THEATER, San Diego**

SHOW: *Santa Claus is Coming Out*

Written and Performed by Jeffrey Solomon

Directed by Joe Brancato

WHAT: Jeffrey Solomon's solo mock-u-mentary about the outing of Santa Claus is an irreverent upending of the St. Nick myth.

WHEN: December 4-21st

TICKET INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)



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3

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By [Derek Smith](#)

Twitter: [sunnydrock](#)

San Diego's finest theater juice.

## More Posts by Derek Smith

- ['Broadway Bound' at the Old Globe MUST be Broadway Bound](#)
- [San Diego's Holiday Theater Season 2010](#)
- [Brighton Beach Memoirs is Alive at the Old Globe](#)
- ['Welcome to Arroyo's' Takes Over the Old Globe](#)
- [WELCOME TO ARROYOS Hits the Old Globe With Exciting Cast](#)

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# PACIFIC MAGAZINE

November 2010

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## calendar eleven.ten

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**11/20 - 12/26:**

***How the Grinch  
Stole Christmas***

Venue: Old Globe  
Theatre, Balboa Park  
Tickets: \$30 and up

**Info:** [theold  
globe.org](http://theoldglobe.org)

The Green One  
returns, transforming  
the Old Globe into  
snow-covered  
Whoville. Hail to the  
Seuss—the doctor  
is still in!





# SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

November 2010

## URBAN LIVING



THE LIVELY  
ARTS  
Charlene Baldrige

*November's culturally-cool pleasures abound as the season changes and the holidays roll in.*

### At Copley Symphony Hall

**Nov. 12-13:** San Diego Symphony Winter Pops presents conductor Marvin Hamlisch and special guests in a program titled "One Singular Sensation," featuring music from Hamlisch's award-winning Broadway hit "A Chorus Line," plus music from his film scores. \$20-\$85.

Nov. 19-20, 8 p.m.; Nov. 21, 2 p.m.: Jacobs Masterworks concert presents "Pines of Rome" with music by Rossini. Michael Torke (world premiere of "Cactus," concerto for harp, violin and orchestra), Smetana and Respighi, conducted by Jahja Ling. \$20-\$96. [www.sandiegosymphony.org](http://www.sandiegosymphony.org) or (619) 235-0804.

### At Horton Grand

**Through Nov. 21:** Lamb's Players Theatre continues its hit production of Jon Lorenz and Colleen Kollar Smith's "MiXtape" in extension. Horton Grand Theatre, 444 Fourth Ave. \$28-\$58 [www.lambplayers.org](http://www.lambplayers.org) or (619) 437-6000.

### At the Old Globe

**Nov. 20-Dec. 26:** The Old Globe presents its annual holiday show, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" With book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the piece was

## Hamlisch, 'MiXtape,' 'Grinch' and 'Storyville'

originally conceived and directed by Jack O'Brien. Calendar of performances at [http://theoldglobe.org/\\_pdf/grinch-Cal2010.pdf](http://theoldglobe.org/_pdf/grinch-Cal2010.pdf). Tickets range from \$35 to \$57 (child) and \$54 to \$77 depending on date. Tree lighting takes place at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21. [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org) or (619) 23-GLOBE.

### At SD Repertory Theatre

**Nov. 13-Dec. 12:** On the Lyceum Stage, San Diego Repertory Theatre presents the revised 1979 musical "Storyville," set in 1917 New Orleans. Directed and revised by Broadway star Ken Page, the company of 21 singers and dancers is supported by a live, seven-piece band. For tickets (\$30-\$53) go to [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org) or phone (619) 544-1000.




Marci Anne Wuebben, Joy Yandell and Season Marshall Duffy in "MiXtape," extended through Nov. 21 at Horton Grand Theatre, 444 Fourth Ave.

Photo by J.T. MacMillan



October 26, 2010 at 10:49 AM

San Diego, CA Weather

 66°F, Overcast

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[Home](#) » [How the Grinch Stole Christmas...](#) returns to the Old Globe Theatre

## How the Grinch Stole Christmas... returns to the Old Globe Theatre



**Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!** is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for its 13th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "This Time of Year," "Santa for a Day" and "Fah




Who Doraze,” the delightful carol from the popular animated version of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” Celebrate the holidays as the Old Globe Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Who-ville, right down to the last can of Who-hash.

**TICKETS** to Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://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. 20 and continue through Dec. 26. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for children (17 years and under). Performance times: Previews: Saturday, Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 21 at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 26 at 2:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesday – Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m., 2:00p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Additional performances: Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 23 at 2:00 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 24 at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. (there is no 7:00 p.m. performance that day). There are no performances on Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 3, 8 or 9 and Christmas, Dec. 25.


**LOCATION:** The Old Globe is located in San Diego’s Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. There are numerous free parking lots available throughout the park. Valet parking is also available (\$10).



### 3 Comments

-  **Jamie Sutton**  
[Posted on October 25, 2010 at 5:35 pm](#)

One of my favorite shows all year. It really gets your holiday season kick started. Can’t wait!!

-  **Dillon H.**  
[Posted on October 25, 2010 at 5:40 pm](#)

How the Grinch Stole Christmas is my favorite Christmas movie, but I haven’t seen it live! This is some great info!! Thanks for all the information on times, dates, locations, cost...I’m definitely getting my friends and family to go to this. Thanks 101 Things To Do for informing me about this. If it wasn’t for this article, I would have never even known there was a musical of it! Can’t wait to go see it 😊



3. **Marissa Swayze**

[Posted on October 25, 2010 at 5:54 pm](#)

I am very excited for this play! I cant believe its already been 13 years here in San Diego and I have yet to see it. I'm definitely buying my tickets as soon as possible. I've never been, does it stay close to the original story??

### Leave a Reply

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[Submit Comment](#)

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### Information

- Posted in [Performing Arts](#)
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## Holiday theater of many stripes

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The roundup includes such classics as 'A Christmas Carol' and a few surprises.

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SHAYNA SOBOL

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The holidays are a time to reconnect with the familiar, time-honored characters of the season — Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past, Santa and Rudolph, and David Sedaris' elf. Oh yeah, and Billy Joel. Whether you like musicals or drama or variety spectacles, L.A. is in tune with the great stories that endure, and there is no shortage of holiday theater productions for the whole family.

### **Plaid Tidings**

Stuart Ross directs his holiday revision of the hit musical "Forever Plaid," about a 1950s singing group that returns from the dead for a big gig packed with Christmas standards, including "Let It Snow" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. Dec. 2-26. \$35-\$67. (619) 234-5623. [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org)

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

James Vasquez directs this 13th annual production of Timothy Mason and Mel Marvin's whimsical holiday musical fable based on the classic Dr. Seuss book. Jeff Skowron heads the cast as the Grinch. The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. Nov. 26-Dec. 26. \$39-\$77. (619) 234-5623. [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org)



# GIVING BACK

November 2010

ENTERTAINMENT • THEATRE • CONCERTS • GALAS • CULTURE

# November 2010

Noviembre

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



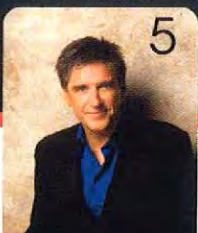
**1**

SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS  
Copley Symphony Hall  
www.sandiego-symphony.org




**3**

REEL BIG FISH  
House of Blues | www.hob.com



**5**

CRAIG FERGUSON  
Balboa Theater  
www.sandiegotheatres.org



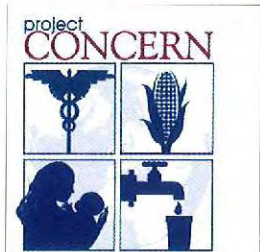
**5**

JEWEL  
Petco Park | www.padres.com



**5-14**

SAN DIEGO BEER WEEK  
San Diego | www.sdbw.org



**6**

PROJECT CONCERN INTERNATIONAL  
Del Mar Fairgrounds  
www.projectconcern.org



**6**

FED CUP FINAL  
Sports Arena | Sports Arena



**6-JUNE 15**

DREAMS AND DIVERSIONS  
San Diego Museum of Art | www.sdmart.org



**7-14**

THE WINTER'S TALE  
The Old Globe | www.theoldglobe.org



**9**



**11**

LILA DOWNS  
House of Blues | www.hob.com



**12**

SUBLIME  
Sports Arena | www.sandiegoarena.com




**12-14**

SNOW JAM  
Del Mar Fairgrounds | www.snowjamshow.com



**13**

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE  
Sports Arena | www.sandiegoarena.com



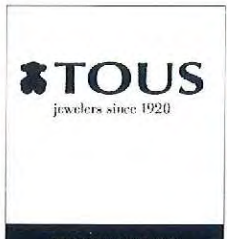
**17**

USHER  
Sports Arena | www.sandiegoarena.com



**18**

VINCE VAUGHN & KEVIN JAMES COMEDY ROADSHOW  
Balboa Theater  
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**20-DEC. 24**

DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS  
The Old Globe | www.theoldglobe.org

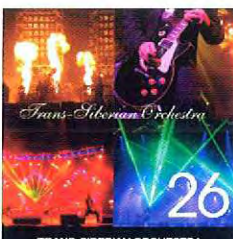


**24 JAN. 2**

SKATING BY THE SEA  
Hotel Del Coronado  
www.hoteldel.com



**25**



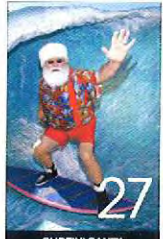
**26**

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA  
Sports Arena  
www.sandiegoarena.com



**27**

PLAID TIDINGS  
The Old Globe | www.theoldglobe.org



**27**

SURFIN' SANTA  
Seaport Village  
www.seaportvillage.com



**28**

YO GABBA GABBA  
Sports Arena  
www.yogabba.com



**30-DEC. 30**

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS  
Lamb's Player Theater | www.lambplayers.org



## arts

EDWIN RENDÓN

IN FOCUS

47



OLD GLOBE THEATRE:

### DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

For the 13th consecutive year the Grinch will slither upon Whoville with the most treacherous of plans, do away with Christmas and all its joy. The Old Globe has its annual Dr. Seuss' classic *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* in store. Along with his waggling meek canine companion Max, the Grinch will soon find out why Christmas runs deeper in all of Whoville's citizens than any fancy gift with ribbons, tags, packages boxes or bags. It turns out that Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more. **November 20th - December 26**

# GAY SAN DIEGO

December 3, 2010

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## CALENDAR



*Logan Lipton as Max and Jeff Skowron as The Grinch. (Courtesy Michael Lamont)*

**Dec.5, That's Mr. Grinch, to you:**

San Diego's holiday tradition is back for its 13th year. Catch Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park, 1363 Old Globe Way. Showings are at 2 and 5 p.m. Tickets are from \$20-\$57. Call (619) 23-GLOBE or visit [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org).



# SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

December 2010

## Live performances warm the season



### THE LIVELY ARTS

Charlene Baldrige

December offers several culturally-warm special events, plus the usual holiday offerings, which have a separate space of their own this month.

#### At the Old Globe

The Old Globe has two holiday shows for the family this season. The 13th annual production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" features the return of actor Jeff Skowron as the hairy green guy; and Stuart Ross' "Plaid Tidings," in which the beloved Plaid quartet (Michael Winther, David Brannen, Jason Heil and Leo Daignault) returns to perform holiday favorites. Both productions play now through Dec. 26 at the Old Globe, Balboa Park, [www.theoldglobe.org](http://www.theoldglobe.org) or (619) 23-GLOBE.

#### At Copley Symphony Hall

San Diego Symphony Jacobs' Master-

works Series presents Gustav Mahler's magnificent Symphony No. 2 in C minor ("Resurrection"), conducted by Jahja Ling and featuring soprano Janice Chandler Eteme, mezzo-soprano Susan Platts and the San Diego Master Chorale, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 10-11; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, Copley Symphony Hall, Seventh and B streets, [www.sandiegosymphony.org](http://www.sandiegosymphony.org) or (619) 235-0804.

#### At the Lyceum

San Diego Repertory Theatre presents Ed Bullins' "Storyville," a musical featuring 22 performers and a live band. With music and lyrics by Mildred Kayden, the work is set in early 1917 New Orleans and plays through Dec. 12 at the Lyceum, San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. Schedule and tickets at [www.sdrept.org](http://www.sdrept.org) or (619) 544-1000.

#### At Horton Grand Theatre

Lamb's Players Theatre has extended its hit musical revue "MiX-tape" once again. The extremely popular, not-to-be-missed show plays Wednesdays-Sundays through Dec. 19 at Horton Grand Theatre, 444 Fourth Ave. [www.lambplayers.org](http://www.lambplayers.org) or (619) 437-6000.

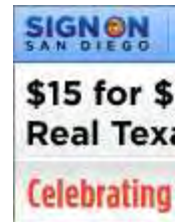


Jahja Ling will conduct the San Diego Symphony in Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 in C minor ("Resurrection"), featuring soprano Janice Chandler Eteme, mezzo-soprano Susan Platts and the San Diego Master Chorale at Copley Symphony Hall.

COURTESY PHOTO



## NEWS



NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OBITS OPINION LIFESTYLE NIGHT & DAY VISIT SD TRAVEL RADIO DEALS

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## Events

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## Holiday events for kids

BY KELI DAILEY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010 AT 1:56 P.M.

### Teddy Bear Tea

*2:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday through Dec. 24, Westgate Room, Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Ave., downtown. \$39; \$26 under 12. Seating is limited; (619) 238-1818; [westgatehotel.tix.com](http://westgatehotel.tix.com)*

Here's how the afternoon will unfold: Tea service. Older palates pick from the regular Westgate Room menu. For kids there's less emphasis on seafood and caviar and



/ AP PHOTO/SANDY HUFFAKER



more on strawberries and peanut butter. The party moves to the lobby. Faces are painted. Balloons are twisted into art. Everyone sits on Santa's lap to share Christmas lists. Santa hands out [teddy bears](#) to tide anxious children over till December 25.

Fireworks go off behind a LEGO replica of New York City during the New Year's celebration at Legoland California.

### **Holiday Festival at La Valencia**

*5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 20 through Dec. 23 La Valencia Hotel, La Sala Lounge, 1132 Prospect St., La Jolla. \$15 kids; (858) 454-0771; [lavalencia.com](http://lavalencia.com)*

This storied coastal hotel turns into a holiday workshop for the kiddos with storytellers, Santa photos and gingerbread-house decorating. The Full Measure Carolers will provide an inspiring holiday soundtrack that Wednesday and Thursday. And three on-site restaurants can combat the post-festival sugar high.

### **The Grinch**

*Now through Sunday, Dec. 26. 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. (619) 234-5623; [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org). \$42 to \$57 kids, \$62 to \$77 adults.*

The green guy who hates the holidays is back in the beloved Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Celebrating its 13th year at the [Old Globe Theatre](#).

### **Jungle Bells**

*Now through January 2, San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park. Admission \$40; \$30 ages 3 to 11. (619) 231-1515; [sandiegozoo.org](http://sandiegozoo.org)*

Even the animals get in the holiday spirit at the San Diego Zoo Jungle Bells 2010, when the grounds turn into a winter wonderland with [Christmas lights](#), bell ringers, snow, Santa and his elves (or are those pygmy marmosets?).

### **Holiday music in Balboa Park**

*2 to 3 p.m. Sundays. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park. [balboapark.org](http://balboapark.org). Free.*

Civic organist Carol Williams is a crowd-pleaser. So you'll probably hear a holiday suite at this ongoing Organ Concert series. Strollers can navigate the Botanical Building for the free Poinsettia Display, too.

### **Museum exploring**

*New Children's Museum, 200 West Island Ave, downtown. (619)233-8792; [thinkplaycreate.org](http://thinkplaycreate.org)*

# LGBT WEEKLY

November 18, 2010

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**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24**

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

## **Tuesday, Nov. 23**

Get into the Christmas Spirit early with America's favorite holiday fable, Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Back for its 13th incredible year, this 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's stage. Come take part in the fun as the Old Globe Theatre is transformed into the snow-covered Whoville, right down to the last can of Who-hash! Performance is at 7:00 p.m. with tickets from \$20 to \$54. The Old Globe is located in Balboa Park right off El Prado, between the San Diego Museum of Art and the Museum of Man. Contact the Ticket Services Office at 619-23-Globe (234-5623) to purchase tickets.



Home / Entertainment / Entertainment Events

## Preview calendar: Theater and auditions for Dec. 16-22

- Story
- Discussion

Preview calendar: Theater and auditions for Dec. 16-22

North County Times North County Times - Californian | Posted: Wednesday, December 15, 2010 11:30 am | No Comments Posted | [Print](#)

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Press releases for arts and entertainment events and programs should be typed, double-spaced, with basic information about the event, performance dates and times, location, ticket prices and a public telephone number. Send notices two to three weeks before the event to Preview, 207 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Escondido, 92025, or via e-mail to [preview@nctimes.com](mailto:preview@nctimes.com). Or fax items to (760) 745-3769.

### THEATER

**"An American Christmas"** ---- Lamb's Players Theatre and the Hotel del Coronado host the 15th annual holiday dinner theater celebration; guests will dine on a five-course gourmet dinner in the hotel's Grand Ballroom while being entertained by more than two dozen members of a wealthy Coronado family, circa 1910; 6:30 p.m. daily through Dec. 26; Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado; \$120-\$160, adults; \$95-\$125, children ages 5 to 12; 619-437-6000 or [lambplayers.org](http://lambplayers.org).

**"Annie"** ---- Star Theatre presents its annual production of this musical based on the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16-Dec. 18; 2 p.m. Dec. 18 and Dec. 19; Star Theatre, 402 N. Coast Highway, Oceanside; \$15, general; \$12, seniors, students, military; \$7, children under 12; 760-721-9983 or [startheatre.biz](http://startheatre.biz).

**"An Unscripted Carol"** ---- North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Impro Theatre of Los Angeles' improvisational holiday play, created on the spot from audience suggestions; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 and Dec. 21; North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987D Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach; \$15-\$20; 858-481-1055 or [northcoastrep.org](http://northcoastrep.org).

**"Believe"** ---- San Diego Pantomime Theatre presents Jerry Hager's sentimental slapstick holiday comedy, featuring Chaplinesque humor for the whole family; there will also be an opportunity to take photos with Santa Claus in the lobby for \$5; 2 p.m. Dec. 18; Sunshine Brooks Theater, 217 N. Coast Highway, Oceanside; \$12, general; \$6, children 12 and under; free for military families; 760-529-9140 or [sunshinebrookstheatre.org](http://sunshinebrookstheatre.org).

**"Big Band Christmas"** ---- Welk Resorts Theatre presents a 1940s radio-style tribute to "the boys overseas" featuring a nine-piece big band playing classic Christmas tunes and 1940s swing music and songs; 8 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays; 1 p.m. Fridays-Sundays; through Dec. 31; Welk Resorts Theatre, 8860 Lawrence Welk Drive, Escondido; \$54-\$68, show only; \$57-\$73, show and lunch or dinner buffet; 888-802-7469 or [welktheatresandiego.com](http://welktheatresandiego.com).

**"Black Nativity, The Musical"** ---- Common Ground Theatre presents Hassan El-Amin's adaptation of Langston Hughes' play, which combines the Nativity story with a gospel concert, and will feature guest performances by gospel choirs from all over the region; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17 and Dec. 18; 3 p.m. Dec. 19; Educational Cultural Complex, 4343 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego; \$30, general; \$20, seniors and students; \$10, children under 12; 619-263-7911 or [commongroundtheatre.org](http://commongroundtheatre.org).

**"Celebrate the Giving Season"** ---- Write Out Loud presents a program of holiday storytelling featuring local actors reading works by A.A. Milne, Ruth Sawyer, Grace Paley, Sarah Marwill Lamstein and Bret Harte; 7 p.m. Dec. 20; Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad; \$15, general; \$13, seniors; \$5, children ages 5 to 12; 619-297-8953.

- "Chalk It Up to Murder"** ---- Peggy Sue Productions presents this new "spaghetti Western" murder-mystery dinner theater production at Mikki's Restaurant; 5:30 p.m. Sundays; ticket-holder in the best costume wins a prize; Mikki's Restaurant, 1639 E. Valley Parkway, Escondido; \$32-\$35 (includes three-course dinner and show); 760-489-2496 or [www.peggysueanddinnertoo.com](http://www.peggysueanddinnertoo.com).
- "A Christmas Carol"** ---- Julian Stage Company and the Julian Chamber of Commerce present the town's annual production of Charles Dickens' story about the Victorian-era miser Ebenezer Scrooge, who discovers the holiday spirit when he's visited one night by the ghosts of Christmases past, present and future; 7 p.m. Dec. 16-Dec. 18; 1:30 p.m. Dec. 18 and Dec. 19; Julian Town Hall, 2129 Main St., Julian; \$10, adults; \$5, children 12 and under; 760-765-3789.
- "A Christmas Carol"** ---- South Coast Repertory presents Hal Landon Jr. its 31st annual production of Jerry Patch's stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' story about the Victorian-era miser Ebenezer Scrooge, who discovers the holiday spirit when he's visited one night by the ghosts of Christmases past, present and future; 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays; 2:30 p.m. Saturdays; noon and 4 p.m. Sundays; through Dec. 26; Folino Theatre, South Coast Repertory, 655 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa; \$25-\$41, previews; \$35-\$60, regular shows; 714-708-5555 or [scr.org](http://scr.org).
- "A Christmas Story"** ---- Premiere Productions' Annual Holiday Theater Festival presents this beloved comedy about a little boy who dreams of getting a BB gun for Christmas; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19; Avo Playhouse, 303 Main St., Vista; \$13, general; \$11, seniors, students and military; \$8, children 12 and under; 760-724-2110 or [vistix.com](http://vistix.com).
- "Comedy & Magic"** ---- Family-friendly evening of stand-up comedy and magic tricks featuring master ventriloquist/comedian Kevin Johnson and Anthony "Anthony the Magic" Hernandez; 7 p.m. Wednesdays; Welk Resorts Theatre, Welk Resorts San Diego, 8860 Lawrence Welk Drive, Escondido; \$25, adults; \$10, children; 760-749-3448 or [welktheatresandiego.com](http://welktheatresandiego.com).
- "The Dinner Detective"** ---- The Dinner Detective hosts an interactive murder mystery dinner theater show, billed as the largest in the Western United States; event includes dinner, floor show and clues to help the audience solve the crime; 6 p.m. Dec. 18 and Dec. 31; Embassy Suites San Diego Bay, 601 Pacific Coast Highway, San Diego; \$59.95 (includes four-course dinner); 619-239-2400.
- "The Drowsy Chaperone"** ---- Premiere Productions presents the regional theater premiere of this Tony-winning 2006 musical about a man whose description of his favorite Broadway show from 1928 comes to life before the audience's eyes; 8 p.m. Dec. 17; 4 p.m. Dec. 18; 1 p.m. Dec. 19; Avo Playhouse, 303 Main St., Vista; \$21; 760-724-2110 or [vistix.com](http://vistix.com). Critic's choice.
- "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas"** ---- The Old Globe presents its 13th annual production of this Mel Marvin/Timothy Mason musical that brings Dr. Seuss' holiday classic story to life onstage; showtimes vary but generally: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; 11 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; plus additional performances; runs Dec. 26; Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego; \$39-\$77, adults; \$20-\$57, children; 619-234-5623 or [theoldglobe.org](http://theoldglobe.org).
- "Forever Plaid"** ---- The California Center for the Arts, Escondido, presents Stuart' Ross' comedy about four long-dead 1960s harmony singers who are resurrected to perform the concert they never had the chance to do in life; 7 p.m. Jan. 29; California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido; \$28-\$45 (\$65 VIP tickets); 800-988-4253 or [artcenter.org](http://artcenter.org).
- "Holiday Madness"** ---- Carlsbad Senior Playreaders presents a program of humorous skits, a 1940s-style radio show, holiday song sing-alongs in two North County locations; 12:45 p.m. Dec. 16 at Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave., Carlsbad; also at 2 p.m. Dec. 19 at Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista; free; 760-721-8928.
- "Holiday Show 2010"** ---- Classic Youth Theatre Inc. presents a youth holiday program featuring "Adventure for Santa" skit, Christmas carols, theatrical scenes, pop songs and blues guitar by Jeremy Price; 7 p.m. Dec. 17; 6350 Yarrow Road, Carlsbad; \$10 (former CYT students get in free); [classicyouththeatre.org](http://classicyouththeatre.org).
- Human Action Festival** ---- Ion Theatre presents its first festival dedicated to provocative political plays, live presentations of world literature and documentary films courtesy of the Human Rights Watch; the seven-day festival will feature themed programs for each day: "Pride Night"/LGBTQ in America, Dec. 17; "Americas"/North and South America, Dec. 18; "Words of Women"/Women's Rights, Dec. 19; "Home Front"/Contemporary American Issues, Dec. 20; full festival schedule can be found online; Ion Theatre, 3704 Sixth Ave., San Diego; \$10 donation per day; 619-600-5020 or [iontheatre.com](http://iontheatre.com).
- "It's a Wonderful Life!"** ---- Welk Resorts Theatre presents Tony Palermo's new "radio-on-stage" adaptation of the 1947 Frank Capra film classic about a suicidal man who discovers how important he is to his community and family with the help of an apprentice angel; 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; through Dec. 30; Welk Resorts



# RanchoBernardoPatch



Holiday Hints

ARTS

## Fun Activities for Your Kids Through the Holidays

Avoid the malls and take a break with your kids to have some fun.

By **Kari Luu** December 19, 2010

School may be out for winter break, but that's no excuse to let your kids enjoy their freedom by gluing their eyes to the TV. Family activities for the holiday season are plentiful.

Here are a few activities to keep the family busy and leave a smile on everyone's face:

### 1. San Diego's Theme Parks

These local parks have holiday oriented themes and many fun-filled activities for the kids. All parks are open on Christmas Day. If you plan to go to more than one park, be sure to check out options for discounts on multi-park tickets.

- **San Diego Zoo** (<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/zoo/index.php>) (2920 Zoo Dr.) Party with the animals at their Jungle Bells celebration. Hours: Through Jan. 2: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. (Christmas Eve, open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); Cost: \$40, ages 12 and up; \$30, ages 3 to 11; free, 2 and under. Parking: Free.
- **San Diego Safari Park** (<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/park/index2010>) (15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd., Escondido) On Christmas Day, visitors can take their little ones on a Ride on the Wild Side tour designed for "Junior Explorers." Hours through Jan. 2: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Cost: \$40, ages 12 and up; \$30, ages 3 to 11; free, 2 and under. Parking: \$7 members; \$10 nonmembers. More for RVs.
- **Legoland** (<http://california.legoland.com/>) (1 Legoland Dr., Carlsbad) Kids can deck the halls with Legoland's bricks and holly. Hours: Through Christmas, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Dec. 26-Jan. 1, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Cost: \$59, ages 3-12 and seniors 60 and up; \$69, ages 13 to 59; free, 2 and under. Parking: \$12
- **SeaWorld** (<http://www.seaworld.com/sandiego/default.aspx>) (500 Sea World Dr.) Enjoy SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration with their ice rink and Santa's cottage. Hours: Through Dec. 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Dec. 27-31, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Cost: \$69.99, ages 10 and up; \$59.99, ages 3 to 9; free, 2 and under. Parking: \$12; \$17 for RVs and campers.



### 2. Exercise

Take your kids for a spin around the ice rinks at San Diego Ice Arena or at the rink between Horton Plaza and the NBC building. Save some money and take a stroll around neighborhood Christmas lights such as Christmas Card Lane in Rancho Peñasquitos. Savor San Diego's warmth during the season and walk along the beach.

### 3. Create

Conjure up cookie recipes for Santa. Add a personal touch to your pine tree and cut up construction paper for chains or make popcorn garlands. Get messy and construct a gingerbread home or just decorate one that is pre-made. Warm up some hot chocolate and stir it with a candy cane. Snip some paper snowflakes and tape it to a window. Make a special holiday treat for your pets (no chocolates!).

### 4. Give a gift

Remind your kids what Christmas is really all about and because of tough times, donate a present to Toys for Tots, Salvation Army or the many other charitable organizations available. Encourage giving away homemade presents for friends and family. Volunteer at a shelter and help those in need. Clean out your closets and donate some clothes.

### 5. See a Show

Watch *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (<http://www.theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?PID=8595>) live at The Old Globe Theatre, which runs through Dec. 26 (but not on Christmas Day). Watch a holiday film with the family with the fireplace burning. Catch a performance of the Nutcracker Ballet presented by the The Encinitas Ballet Academy on Dec. 22 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla.

What will you do to keep the family entertained over winter break? [Tell us in the comments.](#)

Interested in a follow-up to this article?

### Other Holiday Hints Articles



[San Diego New Year's Eve Event Guide](#)  
By **Hoa Quách**



[Recycle Christmas Trees for Free](#)  
By **Shauntel Lowe**



[Guide to Christmas Eve Religious Celebrations](#)

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## La Jolla's BEST BETS for events week of Dec. 23-31

### Final Performances

'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' plays matinees and evenings through Dec. 26 at The Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Tickets are \$39-\$77 adults; \$20-\$57 ages 7 and younger at (619) 23-GLOBE or TheOldGlobe.org



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## Christmas Weekend in San Diego – Football, Jazz, Sledding and Lights!

Posted by [Angel Star](#) on December 22, 2010 · [Leave a Comment](#)

Like

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Christmas is almost here! Can you believe it? We still have a few days to celebrate the season so let's do it! The 2010 Poinsettia Bowl at Qualcomm, local Christmas theater and music, lighting displays in your neighborhood, ice skating on Coronado Island, holiday bonfires in Old Town and sledding on 7 tons of snow at the San Diego Botanic Garden...let's enjoy San Diego with our family and friends!

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**Thursday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Hiroshima**, Jazz Fusion band, will be playing their Holiday Sounds at 7:30pm and 9:30pm with guest vocalist Terry Steele and harmonica player Tetsuya Nakamura (of the group “War”) at [Anthology](#). Tickets start at \$15.

**San Diego County Credit Union 2010 Poinsettia Bowl** will feature the [San Diego State Aztecs](#) and the [Navy Midshipmen](#) on **Thursday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 5pm at the [Qualcomm Stadium](#). On the day of the game, join the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl VIP’s and fans and kick-off your evening of football and fun at the VIP Tailgate Party. When you spend \$40, guests will enjoy unlimited food, beer and wine at this “Mexican Fiesta” as well as private performances by the college bands and cheerleaders. This exclusive event is located in section F-1 of the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot from 2:30-4:30pm before the start of the game. [Purchase your tickets here!](#)

**Friday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**

Rock out on Christmas Eve day at the [Pacific Beach Music Fest](#) over at the 710 Beach Club from 1pm-8pm, then head over to the Casbah and keep the party going with Los Maricones de Rock covering the Rolling Stones classics all night long for [Exile on Kettner Blvd](#).

#### **Ongoing Christmas Events around San Diego**

**Traditions of Christmas at Balboa Theatre – Through Dec. 23** You will be enchanted by customs from around the world as all your favorite Christmas stories come to life on stage. Meet Santa and enjoy the all-new Christmas Countdown of the greatest Christmas songs of all time. There will be a Living Nativity, carols, choirs and majestic pageantry. Come see why families come back year after year to this colorful family spectacular! [More information and tickets](#)



**How the Grinch Stole Christmas at the Old Globe Theatre – Through Dec. 26** The traditional holiday about the Who’s in Whoville and the Grinch who tries to steal Christmas. [More information and tickets.](#)

**Bonfire Nights in Old Town – Dec. 28 – 30** Presented by Fiesta de Reyes, El Fandango Restaurant, and all the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park merchants, on Dec. 28 – 30 at 6 p.m a bonfire will light up the winter nights at dusk and free s’mores will be provided. Bonfire pit is in the Plaza, directly in front of the Visitor Center.

**Festival of Christmas with Lamb’s Players Theatre – Through Dec. 29** This year we’re returning to one of our favorite Festivals – “It’s Christmas And It’s Live!” – Set in the early 1950s, this is a delightful story of an eager, young quartet breaking into the new media of television when an unexpected blizzard shuts down New York. Filled with great music of the era and the holiday season, *Festival of Christmas* will be enjoyed by the entire family. To purchase tickets, [click here](#).

**Garden of Lights 2010 – Through Dec. 30** After the sun goes down, the San Diego Botanic Garden is transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland with over 100,000 sparkling lights illuminating the Garden for a magical holiday experience. Live music fills the air nightly from 6 – 8 pm and there is a 100% chance of snow at San Diego Botanic Garden! Sunday, **December 26 at 2 pm**, some 7 tons of snow will be created in the Garden’s Eucalyptus Grove, for the sledding enjoyment for the young and young-at-heart. The snow will last several days, weather permitting. Bring an innertube and join the fun!

# LA JOLLA LIGHT

December 23, 2010

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## La Jolla's **Best Bets** For Events

More fun online at [www.lajollalight.com](http://www.lajollalight.com)

### **Final Performances**

'Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' plays matinees and evenings through Dec. 26 at The Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Tickets are \$39-\$77 adults; \$20-\$57 ages 7 and younger at (619) 23-GLOBE or [TheOldGlobe.org](http://TheOldGlobe.org)

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# SD THE PLACE

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## CURTAIN CALL NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER THEATRE OPENINGS

*Craving a little culture in your life? Look no further than the latest theatre openings SD has to offer...*

### Balboa Theatre

What: ***Toy Stories***  
When: November 21  
Where: 868 Fourth Ave., San Diego  
How: 619-570-1100  
ticketmaster.com



### City Ballet of San Diego Spreckels Theatre

What: ***The Nutcracker***  
When: December 10 – 19  
Where: 121 Broadway, San Diego  
How: 858-272-8663  
cityballet.org



### Cygnnet Theatre Company Old Town Theatre

What: ***It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play***  
When: November 26 – December 31  
Where: 4040 Twiggs St., San Diego  
How: 619-337-1525  
cygnettheatre.com



### La Jolla Playhouse Mandell Weiss Theatre

What: ***Ruined***  
When: November 16 – December 19  
Where: 2910 La Jolla Village Dr., La Jolla  
How: 858-550-1010  
lajollaplayhouse.org



### Old Globe Theatre

What: ***Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!***  
When: November 20 – December 26  
Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego  
How: 619-23-GLOBE  
theoldglobe.org



### North Coast Repertory Theatre

What: ***Gee's Band***  
When: Through November 7  
Where: 987 Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Ste. D, Solana Beach  
How: 858-481-1055  
northcoastrep.org

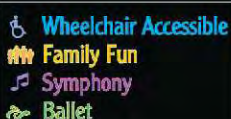
### San Diego Civic Theatre

What: ***The Color Purple***  
When: December 3 – 5  
Where: 1100 Third Ave., San Diego  
How: 619-570-1100  
800-982-2787  
broadwaysd.com



### San Diego Repertory Theatre Lyceum Stage

What: ***Storyville***  
When: November 13 – December 12  
Where: 79 Horton Plz., San Diego  
How: 619-544-1000  
sdrep.org



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



*The Color Purple*



*La Jolla Playhouse*



*Old Globe Theatre*



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## Holly Jolly San Diego

Have you ever seen a Santa built of LEGO® bricks 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.

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

**Now through December 26**

The Tony Award-winning **Old Globe** in **Balboa Park** is home to the original production of this 13th annual musical set in Whoville. If you cringe at the wayward, yet tenderhearted 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 - 59 youth (3 - 17). Get more details at 619-23-GLOBE or theoldglobe.org.

### **Holly Jolly Holidays at LEGOLAND California Through December 31**

Join LEGOLAND for the spectacular **Holly Jolly Holidays**. Festivities include a life-sized LEGO brick Santa and reindeer for that perfect family photo, miniature Santas and reindeer delivering toys throughout Miniland USA, and the new "Let It Snow" musical. Plus, every night from December 26 - 31, the night sky will light up with fireworks at closing.

### **Kids' New Year's Eve at LEGOLAND**

**December 31**

Midnight strikes at 6pm (12am KST: Kid Standard Time) with the earliest New Year's celebration in San Diego County. Like the famous Times Square party, **Kids' New Year's Eve** features a countdown followed by a dazzling fireworks display. So get in the holiday spirit and ring in the New Year at LEGOLAND California. For more info, call 760-918-5346 or visit [legolandca.com](http://legolandca.com).



### **The Nutcracker**

**December 11 - 12 (Poway Center for the Performing Arts)**

**December 18 - 21 (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 by calling 858-560-5676 or logging on to [californiaballet.org](http://californiaballet.org).

### **SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration**

**Weekends December 4 - 12; Daily December 18 - 31**

Welcome to "Where The Season Meets the Sea" at **SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration**. In this wintry, watery wonderland, you'll enjoy stunning live shows inspired by the natural world, go ice skating with your whole family, share a smile with a sea lion, and get immersed in the wonders of **The Polar Express 4-D Experience**. And don't miss the pet-stravaganza of the all-new **Christmas Tails Show**. This is where holiday memories are made. Grab more details by calling 800-25-SHAMU or check out [seaworldsandiego.com](http://seaworldsandiego.com).

**Want to share your favorite holiday tradition?  
Tell us all about it at [Community.VisitThePlace.com](http://Community.VisitThePlace.com).**





# NAVY DISPATCH

December 22, 2010

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## **13th annual production of Dr. Seuss' 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas**

The annual holiday musical, directed by James Vasquez with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, will run in the Old Globe Theatre Now – Dec. 26. Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$77 for adults and from \$20 to \$57 for children. Performances are restricted to children 3 years and up except for the 11 a.m. performances for which tickets can be purchased for children of all ages. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org), by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office.