



THE RAINMAKER



PRESS HIGHLIGHTS



REVIEWS

Client Name: The Old Globe
 Publication Name: UT San Diego-North County Coastal
 Publication Date: July 21, 2013
 Page Number: B8
 Circulation: 130,375
 Size: 48 sq inch
 Value: \$2,441.69

THEATER REVIEW

GLOBE'S 'THE RAINMAKER' BURSTING WITH CHARM

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

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But then, it's likewise a little hard to figure the alchemy behind director Maria Mileaf's staging of "The Rainmaker," the 1954 N. Richard Nash play about stifled lives thirsting for some passion.

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One more thing about the puzzle of why this play and production work so well: On the surface, subtlety seems to have little to do with it.

It's not just hot in this town; it's 101 degrees, and the elegantly spare, rustic set by Neil Patel (Mileaf's husband and fellow UC San Diego alumnus) blazes in elemental shades under Japhy Weideman's vibrant lighting.



Gbenka Akinnagbe (left) as Bill Starbuck, John Judd as H.C. Curry and Danielle Skraastad as Lizzie Curry perform in "The Rainmaker," at The Old Globe Theatre through Aug. 11. JIM COX

When Lizzie finally begins to open her heart to the possibility of romance, she literally lets down her hair. She's inspired to do so by the (supposed) rainmaker Bill Starbuck (Gbenka Akinnagbe of HBO's "The Wire"), whose name comes straight from a pretty watery book, "Moby-Dick."

And when Starbuck blows into the place, he *really* blows in: A sudden wind swings open the door of the Curry place for his entrance.

The kinetic and entertaining Akinnagbe brings a suitably destabilizing energy, knocking the family off its axis by making Lizzie see herself in a new light — as a woman instead of a wallflower and spinster-to-be.

Not that there aren't already fault lines: Elder brother Noah (speaking of water-related names) is the self-righteous, self-appointed moral arbiter who insists Lizzie should set her sights low. (The deep-voiced Peter Douglas plays him with a laugh-inducing humorlessness.

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Where: Old Globe Theatre's Shiley Stage, Balboa Park

Tickets: About \$29-\$97

Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

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As Lizzie's younger brother Jim, though, Kyle Harris just about waltzes off with every scene he's in. The shaggy-haired actor actually looks a bit like a young Bob Dylan, and he makes his guileless, excitable character the comic equivalent of a cloudburst.

And if the play's ending pours it on a little thick, the skill involved in this production still helps wash away any sense of artifice.

Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: U-T San Diego
Publication Date: July 20, 2013
Page Number: B5
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 63 sq inch
Value: \$9,737.67

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Gbenga Akinagbe (left) as Bill Starbuck, John Judd as H.C. Curry and Danielle Skraastad as Lizzie Curry perform in N. Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker," directed by Maria Mileaf at The Old Globe Theatre through Aug. 11. JIM COX

'Rainmaker' sprinkled with wry delights

Old Globe's revival of Nash play buoyed by strong cast, direction

By [James Hebert \(/staff/james-hebert/\)](/staff/james-hebert/) 2:03 p.m. July 19, 2013



(/photos/2013/jul/19/1063712/)

Gbenga Akinagbe (left) and Danielle Skraastad in the Old Globe Theatre's "The Rainmaker." — *Jim Cox*

If a hard rain's a-gonna fall on the parched Texas town where the Old Globe's latest show is set, the method for coaxing it — which apparently involves table salt, tied-up mules and “good ol’ Nebraska cuss words” — seems about as coherent as a Bob Dylan lyric.

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The play is a gentle kind of fairy tale that can be folksy to a fault, and its ideas of female fulfillment risk leaving a modern playgoer feeling wilted.

And yet this turns out to be a seriously charming show — one that’s shot through with humor and humanity and an inspired balance between the sobering realities of the time and place (a drought-stricken farm during the 1930s) and the story’s more fanciful elements.

That contrast is crucial, because at heart “The Rainmaker” is all about finding beauty and amazement in the seemingly ordinary, and believing dreams can bloom from the cracked earth.

The play may be named for the flimflam man who comes to town promising he can summon storms on cue. But this is really the story of Lizzie Curry (Danielle Skraastad), the farm gal who’s just about past believing she’ll find a life (and love) of her own outside the spread she shares with her widowed dad and two brothers.

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When Lizzie finally begins to open her heart to the possibility of romance, she literally lets her hair down. She’s inspired to do so by the rainmaker Starbuck (Gbenga Akinagbe of HBO’s “The Wire”), whose name comes straight from a highly watery book, “Moby-Dick.”

(Akinagbe, by the way, is the sole African-American cast member — a fact that bears mentioning only to affirm that Mileaf clearly means it as an instance of “color-blind” casting, rather than an attempt to inject a racial dynamic into this story set in the pre-Civil Rights Era South.)

And when Starbuck blows into the place, he *really* blows in: A sudden wind swings open the door of the Curry place for his grand

entrance.

The kinetic and entertaining Akinnagbe brings a suitably destabilizing energy, knocking the family off its axis by making Lizzie see herself in a new light — as a woman instead of a wallflower and spinster-to-be.

Not that there aren't already fault lines: Elder brother Noah (speaking of water-related names) is the self-righteous, self-appointed moral arbiter who insists Lizzie should set her sights low. (The deep-voiced Peter Douglas plays him with a laugh-inducing humorlessness, if that's not a contradiction; he's like Texas' answer to Eeyore.)

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As Lizzie's younger brother Jim, though, Kyle Harris just about waltzes off (or maybe that's a Texas two-step?) with every scene he's in. The shaggy-haired actor actually looks a bit like a young Dylan, and he makes his guileless, excitable character the comic equivalent of a cloudburst.

And if the show (with smartly detailed costumes by Katherine Roth and a well-calibrated sound design by Bart Fasbender) pours it on a little thick at the end — again, pretty literally — the skill involved in this production still helps wash away a sense of artifice.

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Making rain, and metaphors

In Old Globe's 'The Rainmaker,' it's not really about the weather

By [David Coddon](#)

It's a strange feeling to be sitting in an audience that's rocking with laughter while not finding what you're watching all that funny. Case in point: me at [The Old Globe](#)'s revival of N. Richard Nash's *The Rainmaker*. Now it isn't that the play, which originally opened in New York almost 60 years ago, is un-funny. Thanks mostly to the physical comedic talents of Kyle Harris as a goofy brother and Danielle Skraastad as sister Lizzie, the central figure of the play, there's definite reason to laugh here.

But Lizzie's story is truly about a young woman's tortured self-esteem and longing for even the smallest gesture of love. In that portrayal, the talented Skraastad soars far above her moments of man-luring sashaying (which the opening night audience responded to with howling). To my mind, the sad plight of Lizzie Curry far outweighs anything else in *The Rainmaker*, though (SPOILER ALERT) everyone lives happily ever after by show's end.

As for the title character, Bill Starbuck (Gbenga Akinagbe) descends upon the pre-Dust Bowl-era ranch of the Curry family, promising—for a hundred bucks—to relieve an oppressive drought with blessed rain. It's obvious early in the going that the rainmaking is metaphorical for washing away Lizzie's yearning and loneliness. You know it's going to, and you know it's going to rain—really rain—eventually.

The Globe production, the first inside this summer, is a definite crowd-pleaser—it could be that some in the crowd fondly remember Burt Lancaster in the 1956 film version of Nash's

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Danielle Skraastad and Gbenga Akinagbe in The Rainmaker
- Jim Cox

play. Or they just want to laugh, rain or no rain, metaphor or no metaphor.

The Rainmaker runs through Aug. 11.
[Tickets start at \\$29.](#)

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July 19, 2013

Whimsey Flavors Plainsmen's Lives in Old Globe Theatre *Rainmaker*

- [THEATER REVIEW](#)

by Welton Jones

The 1950s needed plays like *The Rainmaker* to loosen up that Cold War sobriety. Magical beings drifting through the everyday hardscrabble could scatter a bit of fairy dust that might make everybody's life slightly better. Why not? Things were grim, what with that Bomb just waiting to drop.

That traditionally is the task of art and artists. But perhaps, went a popular variation of the period, the goods might also be delivered by conjurers or even charlatans. After all, Professor Harold Hill of *The Music Man* did in fact excite the imaginations of the kids who got the expensive uniforms and instruments and were then instructed to "think" the Minuet in G while the professor skipped town. Who is to say his gains were ill-got, went the jaunty, whimsical message of these pieces.



Danielle Skaastad and Gbenga Akinagbe in Old Globe *The Rainmaker*.

The magic man of N. Richard Nash's *Rainmaker*, now on the main stage of the Old Globe Theatre, is a fast-talking hustler who sells the promise of rain to desperate, drought-stricken ranchers. His target is a motherless family of nice guys and one blunt, smart, restless daughter called Lizzie, firmly on the road to spinsterhood.

The con-man, self-named "Starbuck" long before coffee entered the picture, works the family with practiced ease, using the dreamy patriarch and the itchy kid brother as levers to move, first, the hard-headed older brother and, finally, Lizzie herself.

When he leaves, a step ahead of the sheriff, Starbuck has made a man of the boy, inspired a kinder gentler big brother, answered an old man's dreams and turned Lizzie into a beautiful woman, ready for marriage to an appropriate local bachelor.

And does he make it rain? It's a fantasy romance. What do you think?

Starbuck is meant to dominate the play but actually, the regular folks are far more interesting. For me, "Never judge a heifer by the flick of her tail," as one of the guys says, is more of a delight that several pounds of Starbuck's musty web-weaving. He's a stock catalytic character plopped into a nicely constructed family drama, like L. Frank Baum lobbing something from Oz into the middle of an O'Neill epic.

The Globe's casting and the careful detailing of director Maria Mileaf's gleaming production reinforce this, too. Never for a moment is Gbenga Akinagbe's Starbuck convincing. His strut and bombast is robust, mind you, but there's a distinct sag when he must carry a scene.

That leaves Danielle Skraastad somewhat stuck in her biggest moment. But the rest of the way, she cavorts like a colt and changes mood on a dime.

The rest of the cast is just dandy. John Judd as the old dad and Kyle Harris as the knuckle-headed kid offer softer comedy while Peter Douglas, a Western icon of responsibility, and Tug Coker, playing a stubbornly

independent lawman, humanize stereotypes. And Herbert Siguenza, an old fox familiar from decades of Culture Clash, stops just short of scene-stealing as the comfortable sheriff.



Peter Douglas, John Judd, Danielle Skraastad, Tug Coker and Kyle Harris is Old Globe *The Rainmaker*. Jim Cox Photos

It's a handsome-looking show, too, although I have to wonder at all the layers in Katherine Roth's detailed costumes in all this 100-degree-plus weather about which we're always hearing.

Neil Patel's sets have the cool minimalism of an Ikea store and they shift beautifully. Lighting designer Japhy Weideman takes every advantage of prairie sunsets offered and Bart Fasbender has found some appropriate and consistent background music.

This is a solid old play covering material now nearly used up but, as Globe audiences expect, it's done properly.

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Continues at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 11, 2013



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THEATER REVIEW: "The Rainmaker" at The Old Globe

JEAN LOWERISON - SDGLN THEATER CRITIC
July 22nd, 2013

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The earth is parched and so are the souls in the Curry household. But patriarch H.C. (John Judd) and sons Noah (Peter Douglas) and Jim (Kyle Harris) are monomaniacally focused not on the lack of rain but on the dwindling marriage prospects of the only woman in the house, 27-year-old Lizzie (Dannielle Skraastad).

Why is this so important? Because the place is a drought-ridden rural town in the West; the time, the 1930s, when women's lives were determined and defined by the men they married. The play is N. Richard Nash's 1954 "The Rainmaker," onstage through Aug. 11 at The Old Globe.

No-nonsense Lizzie, labeled "plain" by older brother Noah – who also undiplomatically tells her that she'll be an old maid – has just returned from a humiliating "family" visit where she was inspected like cattle by the three sons of marriageable age.

"If you want to get a man," Noah counsels, "you got to get him in the way a man gets got."

Lizzie is smart and a good cook and housekeeper, but she's neither a great beauty nor the most vivacious creature around, and small talk is not her forte. The mere thought of engaging in the type of feminine flirtatious banter Noah is talking about seems to paralyze Lizzie's vocal cords (though Skraastad nails it when she parodies it).

The likeliest prospect for Lizzie is sheriff's deputy File (Tug Coker), divorced (though he insists on calling himself a widower) and just as pigheaded about playing the courting game as Lizzie. It's a perfect match – except for the awkward silence that engulfs both when they find themselves alone in a room.

Hopes and dreams are fading fast, when out of nowhere a stranger appears at the door. He introduces himself as "Bill Starbuck, Rainmaker" (Gbenga Akinragbe), and claims that for \$100 he can bring rain to the parched earth.

[ENLARGE](#)



Photo credit: Jim Cox

Dannielle Skraastad as Lizzie Curry and Gbenga Akinragbe as Bill Starbuck in "The Rainmaker."

Can Starbuck bring rain and maybe a little magic too? Noah and Lizzie are more than skeptical – they as much as call him a charlatan. But impressionable young Jim is enthralled by the stranger, and H.C., in search of some magic himself, is willing to give him a try. Even Lizzie's world will be changed by this stranger.

If the issues here are a bit musty from a feminist perspective, Director Maria Mileaf makes it work by playing those down and highlighting Lizzie's strength as well as the general loneliness at the core of the story. She's helped immensely by Neil Patel's gorgeous (and clever) big-as-all-outdoors set, Japhy Weideman's expansive lighting and Katherine Roth's fine costumes.

Mileaf's fine cast is mostly new to the Globe. The Curry men are perfectly cast: Judd's Curry père, kindly and concerned, plays off nicely against Douglas' elder son Noah, manager of the Curry ranch, who has the soul of a CPA.

Harris is a hoot as Jim, the youngest son, trusting, enthusiastic, kid-like and not the brightest bulb in the group.

Coker and Skraastad made me ache as File and Lizzie – a pair of loners who don't want to be lonely, but lack the social skills required to make a connection.

The lone weak spot is Akinagbe, an accomplished stage, screen and TV actor whose Starbuck failed in the persuasiveness department.

San Diego has a history with rainmakers: back in 1915, a rainmaker named Hatfield claimed to bring a real gullywasher that flooded out Mission Valley, burst dams and destroyed whole communities.

This "Rainmaker" is the kinder, gentler version of this story about men without women, women without men and ranches without water – and a lovely production.

The details

"The Rainmaker" plays through Aug. 11 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

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

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

To read more reviews by SDGLN Theater Critic Jean Lowerison, click [HERE](#).



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Globe's 'Rainmaker' helps us see a woman's true beauty

By Eric George Tauber



Eric George Tauber

SAN DIEGO — Coming from the American heartland, I understand the importance of rain. Lack of it can drive up the cost of everything and destroy your livelihood. In the last drought, families gave up their beloved horses for want of oats to feed them. Desperate times can lead folks to clutch at straws and make the promises of con-men ring like the bells of salvation. This is the setting of *The Rainmaker* by N. Richard Nash now playing at the Globe through Aug 11, 2013.

The Rainmaker first appeared on Broadway in 1954, then became a film starring Burt Lancaster and Katherine Hepburn in '56. The musical version, *110 Degrees in the Shade*, debuted on Broadway in 1963.

Interestingly, playwright N. Richard Nash was born Nathaniel Richard Nusbaum in 1913. But in his day, Jews anglicized their names in order to break into the WASP-dominated world of Broadway. Artistic Director Barry Edelstein mentioned this in his talk with Pat Launer at the JCC, adding that in today's Broadway, a waspy Richard Nash might want to change his name to Nathaniel Nusbaum.

Back to the play... The stage is bare except for a fence and the wheel of a windmill turning painfully slowly as the sun slowly creeps over the horizon. We are in middle America in the late 30's. The Currys are a well-to-do family of ranchers. But in this drought, the cattle are dying, so their estate is likewise drying up.

Father Harry Curry (played by John Judd) owns the ranch while his elder son, Noah (Shakespearean actor, Peter Douglas) runs it and keeps the books. Prodigal younger son Jim (Broadway song and dance man, Kyle Harris) seems more interested in securing the "little red hat" of a local floozy than taking care of business.

Kyle Harris was instantly likable as Jim. His song and dance background made his body language very lively and fun to watch. The baby of the family, he's a romantic and a dreamer, willing to beat Starbuck's bass drum to bring on the rain.

The family also has the task of getting their sister Lizzie (Danielle Skraastad) married off. She's a hard-worker and a good cook, but a bit too plain, earnest and book-smart for her own good. She knows a lot of things, but not how to hook herself a man.

Her brothers argue that she's got to learn "how to get a fella the way a fella gets got." And, "If it's one thing that scares the hell out of a fella, it's a serious-talkin' girl."

But she doesn't want to hook a man through flattery and manipulation. She wants open and honest communication with a man who listens to and respects her. Is that so much to ask, even today?

Into the midst of both a personal and ecological crisis walks Starbuck (Gbenga Akinagbe) a fast-talking traveling con-man who promises to make it rain for \$100 –paid in advance. From the moment he enters, we know he's a shyster. And yet his enthusiasm is so infectious that we fall for his charms.

Noah wants to show him the door but Harry –who has lost more in a poker game- is willing to take the bet. The hand he's really betting on is not the rain but the chemistry he senses between Starbuck and Lizzie. This one-eyed Jack can see Lizzie's beauty and show it to her.

I would call actor Danielle Skraastad more handsome than plain. And yet, what an eligible girl is “supposed to be” is “pretty”. When she does try to play the silly flirt, she's so out of her element that she's a riot. Her relationship with her father (John Judd) was genuinely loving. She doesn't know how to manipulate a man because with him, she has never had to.

For all of Starbuck's lies, he speaks the greatest truth in his love scene with Lizzie. “As long as one person thinks you're beautiful, then you are.” And when she looks into his eyes, that's the woman she sees.

Director Maria Mileaf made a risky choice in casting a black Starbuck. Knowing mid-western attitudes toward interracial relationships, I found it harder to suspend my disbelief. Such a pairing would have gotten a black man lynched in the 30s. Even in 2013, we can't honestly say that race is a non-issue.

On a production note, some of the actors looked too much like ... well, actors. Ranchers are not usually so clean-shaven with make up and heavily moussed hair. My guest the costume mistress had a lot to say about their attire, particularly the lines of modern undergarments showing through their period clothes and the lack of “hat etiquette” when entering rooms. These may be things only a period-maven notices, but attention to detail is the hallmark of craftsmanship.

Hats off to Scenic Designer, Neil Patel. Entire walls and set tables magically came up from the floor and floated down from the flies in seamless transitions. The elements were just enough give us that sense of time and place without being too busy.

Despite a few flaws, *The Rainmaker* is a worthwhile night at the theatre.

If you've ever been called “plain” or “too smart for your own good”...
If you've ever hated playing false when you wanted something real...
If you've ever seen your own beauty in someone else's eyes...
then you'll be drawn into the story of *The Rainmaker* now playing at the Globe.

*

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SAN DIEGO

Regional Reviews by Bill Eadie

The Rainmaker

The Old Globe

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Hope is a strong and powerful motivator. The mere appearance of the word on campaign posters was credited with electing Barack Obama as president in 2008. It sustains us through hard times and we like hope to be around even if it turns out that we were actually hoping against hope.

Hope and hopelessness engage in an unfair debate in the Old Globe's revival of N. Richard Nash's play *The Rainmaker*. You know that hope will win in the end, even when hopelessness is portrayed as being "realistic."



Danielle Skraastad, John Judd, Peter Douglas, Gbenga Akinragbe and Kyle Harris

The advent of realism as eliminating the need for hope was certainly blossoming in 1954 when the Broadway production of *The Rainmaker* bowed. The various wars were over, the U.S. economy was booming, advances in technology promised to improve life quickly (as would be illustrated by Walt Disney's influential short film "Our Friend the Atom"), and hordes of men in grey flannel suits braved long daily commutes to city office jobs so their families could enjoy newly-blossoming suburban life. Life was hopeful and good was real.

Nash's audience could enjoy looking back to the struggles of the Depression era, confident that "it couldn't happen here" (and especially now).

The plot focuses on the Curry family, widower H. C. (John Judd) and his three adult children, Noah (Peter Douglas), Jim (Kyle Harris), and Lizzie (Danielle Skraastad). The Curry men operate a cattle ranch, and a lengthy drought has brought many of the cattle to their knees—and the ranch is getting there, too.

Yet, H. C. in particular seems more focused on making certain his daughter finds a suitable husband than on any of these other problems. There aren't many eligible men in the area, outside of his sons, and there is a supply of women in town who are poised to reel in any man who looks like a prospect. A young woman named Snookie, who drives a fast car and wears a red hat, seems to have that cap set on Jim (who, while not the brightest bulb, is nevertheless very enthusiastic about the prospect). A trip by Lizzie to visit a family in a nearby town with several unmarried sons has been unproductive, and deputy sheriff File (Tug Coker) makes it clear that he is a man who is determined to live his life alone.

Noah, the realist of the family, talks openly that his sister is "plain" and will never find a husband.

Enter Bill Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe), a con man being sought by File and his boss Sheriff Thomas (Herbert Siguenza). Starbuck's cons rely on hope—hope that his smooth-talking ways are not indicative of a liar at work, hope that his promises will come true. Starbuck comes promising to make rain (for a fee, of course), but the hope he projects draws Lizzie to him.

Director Maria Mileaf seems to view the contrast between realism and hope to be represented by her characters, and she encourages each member of the cast to play hope or realism in a distinctive way. The result is a blend of performance styles that work, even though you might find it odd that they do. And it's easy to guffaw at what passes for reality, especially in terms of expectations for courtship, sexual expression, and attitudes toward marriage that 1950s audiences probably found to be merely quaint.

So, hope wins, as you undoubtedly knew it would, and even the excellent design elements (Neil Patel's scenic design, Katherine Roth's monochromatic costumes, Japhy Weidman's variety of big-sky lighting, and Bart Fasbender's upbeat musical interludes during scene changes) support the hopeful condition. In a cynical age where "reality" is what we call a particularly puerile genre of television, it is nice to see audiences rooting for those whose only option is hope.

Performs through August 11, 2013, on the Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage in San Diego's Balboa Park. Tickets are available by calling the box office at (619) 23-GLOBE [234-5623] or by visiting the Old Globe's website, at www.oldglobe.org.

The Old Globe presents *The Rainmaker*, by N. Richard Nash. Directed by Maria Mileaf, with scenic design by Neil Patel, costume design by Katherine Roth, lighting design by Japhy Weidman, and sound design by Bart Fasbender.

The cast includes Gbenga Akinnagbe (Bill Starbuck), Tug Coker (File), Peter Douglas (Noah Curry), Kyle Harris (Jim Curry), John Judd (H. C. Curry), Herbert Siguenza (Sheriff Thomas) and Danielle Skraastad (Lizzie Curry).

Photo: Jim Cox

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The Rainmaker at Old Globe

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[Jeff Smith](#), July 22, 2013

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Okay, N. Richard Nash's pluviocultural comedy has a woman reinventing herself during the Depression on the far side of nowhere. And it premiered during the sexism-clogged McCarthy Era at that. But this is one slight script!

And so talky that Nash devotes - or so it seems - at least two minutes of dialogue to a dog's name.

And *Cliff's Notes* symbolic. Owing to a severe drought, the land is arid. So is Lizzie Curry. She has no husband. A recent visit to "distant" cousins came up dry. If she persists in her shell her father and two brothers worry she could become a "spinster" or "old maid."

It's hard to determine what they fear more: Lizzie being alone (since, in their minds, a woman is incomplete without a man), or how her inability to snare a mate will make *them* look. The males are far more concerned about loveless Lizzie than the corpses of cattle darkening the pasture.

It's also hard to determine because Nash's characters have almost no psychological depth. Except for Lizzie, they are predictable types, front and center.

Enter Starbuck, the "rainmaker": think Meredith Willson's Harold Hill - *avant*, as t'were, *la lettre*. For \$100.00 he promises a downpour within 24 hours. He ends up performing an even greater miracle: he gets Lizzie to rewrite her back-story and thaw her frozen heart.

Others change as well. Even Deputy Sheriff File. He fesses up to being "divorced," and not the more acceptable widower he's been claiming.

As in TV sitcoms, appearances matter most - and that everyone, deep down, is a really nice person. Much of the writing, in fact, resembles sitcom. The characters are mostly a dominant trait needing adjustment. Changes happen because it's just that time in the story.

The exception is Lizzie. She's so smart she horrifies men, Deputy Sheriff File most of all. So she seals away her heart and mind. And the author (the other exception) avoids the obviously romantic conclusion. But will the reality prove much better for her than the fantasy?

For the Old Globe talented director Maria Mileaf has done what she can to give the play life, and conceal most of its arthritic creaks. Bring her back!

Danielle Skrassad's a fine Lizzie. She begins as a self-imposed Ugly Duckling, goes through an inauthentic "sashay" phase, and blossoms into a woman who has accepted her gifts.

Tug Coker plays File as such a shut-in one wonders if he could ever be Lizzie's intellectual equal.

(So many 50s romances are like voting for President. Male playwrights give the female lead just two choices, and she ends up voting for the lesser of two evils).

Except for Kyle Harris' super-charged, scene-stealing Jim, and Herbert Siguenza's brief cameo as the Sheriff, the other males are one-note: John Judd's H.C. Curry's too yummy; Peter Douglas' Noah (a Nash irony: drought/Noah), too stern; and Gbenga Akinagbe's Starbuck too reigned in - and could use some of Tornado Joe's rhetorical passion.

Best of show: Neil Patel's minimalist set figures and re-configures like a Rubik's Cube. Tables rise from the floor, roofs and tack racks fly in, props roll on in seconds. And all are lit by Japhy Weidman's roaring reds and burnt oranges, as if the sun is not only setting on a long, parched day but, if she doesn't wake up, on Lizzie as well.

Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, playing through August 11.

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Old Globe's "The Rainmaker" opens 2013 Summer Season (Photos)

THEATER | JULY 22, 2013 | BY: CAROL DAVIS |

7 photos

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San Diego, CA---Today we have The Weather Channel with maps, pictures, charts and Meteorologists forecasting predicting and hoping that all the paraphernalia money can buy will make those predictions come true. But in N. Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker" all Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe) the anti-hero in his romantic comedy of the same name needs is a bucket of white paint, a rolling drum, his yella hat with three feathers in it and, looking to the sky, a chant of "Cumulo-nimbus! Cumulo-nimbus!"

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View slideshow: [Scenes and cast from N. Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker" now at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park](#) (<http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/scenes-and-cast-from-n-richard-nash-s-the-rainmaker-now-at-the-old-globe-theatre-balboa-park>)

If you think it doesn't work, you have until Aug. 11th to hustle down to Balboa Park where, in the Old Globe Theatre, all this talk of rainmaking takes place under Maria Mileaf's deft direction. It will prove to be a deal breaker.

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"The Rainmaker" is a multi layered play running along on two tracks, one dealing with loneliness and isolation and the other the big draught that takes place in the 1930's somewhere in the Midwest where both drought and depression hang over the Curry ranch much like a cancer. But not to worry because the men in Lizzie's household are more interested in her finding a husband than they are the cattle dropping dead from lack of water, or laying off of ranch hands because of low cash flow.

Con man Bill Starbuck mysteriously shows up at the ranch promising (for a mere \$100.00) rain to the drought-ridden area and hope to the drought strained Lizzie Curry (Danielle Skraastad), 27-year-old spinster daughter of H.C. Curry (John Judd). Beside her father, she lives with her two bachelor brothers, Jim (Kyle Harris) and Noah (Peter Douglas).

Noah is struggling to keep their Midwest farm afloat but persists in marrying Lizzie off to anyone, but for now the sheriff's deputy, File (Tug Coker) a man of very few words who pales in comparison to Starbuck who woos the pants (literally) off of Lizzie. Jim, her younger brother on the other hand, just struggles to keep up.

For Lizzy, it takes some kind words and convincing from this con man/charlatan ("You gotta take my deal because for once in your life you gotta take a chance on a con-man") to persuade her that she is someone in spite of the fact that her older brother Noah keeps putting her down with the insensitivity of someone scratching irritatingly on a chalkboard.

The premise that a woman has to be married to be anything or anyone is as dated as the play and yours truly cringed every time Noah rebuked his sister for just being herself. Only on one occasion, in the Globe's new production, did the opening night audience actually utter a collective 'gasp' at that chauvinism and the way Lizzie's brother Noah spoke to her, trying to convince her that no one would even want her.

She fights the uphill battle throughout convinced that she is unattractive and will become a spinster; an old maid. Conversations that revolve around her singleness status continue throughout the play ad nauseum, as the men in her life don't seem to have clue, care to get a clue or are

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RATING FOR THE RAINMAKER



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Gbenga Akinngbe "The Rainmaker" in N. Richard Nash's play of the same name now showing at The Old Globe through Aug.11th

Photo credit: Jim Cox

concerned that they are hurting her deeper than they can ever imagine and all in the name of love?

It's no wonder she gives herself to the first man that boosts her ego and convinces her that she is beautiful and worth fighting for even though she knows in her heart of hearts that this stranger is a scam artist. She never bought into his claims of making rain from the get go but the illusion of love and her desire to be loved, outweighed her rationale, and so it was.

"The Rainmaker" opened on Broadway in 1954 with Geraldine Page and Darren McGavin. In 2000 it was revived on Broadway and starred Woody Harrelson and Jayne Atkinson. She would go on to receive the 2000 Tony Award nomination for Best Actress in a Play.

It was made into a movie in 1956 with Burt Lancaster as the sizzling Rainmaker and Katherine Hepburn the dour 'old maid of 27'; and it was steamy! In 1963, the musical "106 In The Shade" was based on the play.

It doesn't take an act of congress (although that might be difficult) to figure out where Lizzie wants to go once she drops her guard and begins to believe in the magic of Starbuck's words. The minute she follows him into the tack room, sparks fly and in an instant she finds her truth.

Skraastad's arc is beautiful to watch unfold as her moods ebb and flow. When we first meet up with her she has just returned from her 'visit with family'. She's pretty spunky and full of it, but it doesn't take long for Noah to knock that out of her.

Coming out of her cocoon when Starbuck convinces her to let her hair flow freely rather than up in a bun is the defining a moment toward her becoming a woman driven to fulfillment; it's as certain as the rains will follow the thunder at shows end. (Credit sound designer Bart Fasbender)

John Judd her loveable and mild mannered father is the one believable man in her life that truly loves her and it comes across in aces. The chemistry that flows between father and daughter is as strong as ever

and while he may seem to be pushing his daughter into wedlock, he knows in his heart she will do it at her own pace.

I loved every time he pushed his glasses up on his forehead and urged her to look him straight in the eye so he would know, as only a parent could, when she was telling the truth. My folks used to look at my tongue for the truth. I always thought it turned a different color if I lied to them.

Peter Douglas's Noah had to be the most irritating character in the entire play. If this was the intention of director Maria Mileaf, then mission accomplished. He's the older bookkeeper brother who doesn't have a clue as to what his sister is all about. What a sad commentary on the way women were and still are treated and thought of, even today. 'Nuff said.

Kyle Harris' Jim, the younger brother brings with him the comedy, as in romantic comedy. For the most part he reminded me of the 'Li'l Abner' of the comic book character; suspenders hanging down, boots unlaced and jeans rolled up above the boot tops (Katherine Ross's costumes look like western gear but all too neat and clean for the nasty drought outside.)

Jim believed Starbuck's story right off the bat and was one of the first to volunteer to be a helper in the rainmaking process. He too becomes the object of Noah's discontent when word gets back that Jim was dallying around with a gal named Snookie who 'bleaches her hair with peroxide at least one a week'. In Noah's eyes, she's trouble.

The weakest link in Ms. Mileaf's beautifully staged production is the Starbuck character. Gbenga Akinagbe, whose credits cover everything from Shakespeare to film production to freelance writer for the New York Times, simply lacked the charm or charisma to make a case for himself as a strong magnet that everyone is pulled to. He lacks that sound assuredness so often seen in a leader. This "Rainmaker" just didn't seem to have that zest, that savoir-faire to move mountains or, yes, to open the heavens and bring forth the rain.

Set designer Neil Patel (Ms. Mileaf's husband and UC alumnus) has created a fine playing field for the actors. Stage directions dictate one set, and one huge set it is with a vast skyline in the background, with a single windmill icon barely moving from lack of a breeze. The frame of the wooden farmhouse looms over the entire stage.

The single set direction has been tinkered with a bit but not to the detriment of the overall look and feel. Patel's design is awesome. A fully furnished kitchen drops down onto the space, a platform lifts for the kitchen table, slide in a sheriff's office and a move into the tack room is all beautifully coordinated while still giving the feeling of openness. It is all stunningly lit with Japhy Weidman's lighting design of bright indoor and scorching outside skylines.

Culture Clash's Herbert Siguenza's Sheriff Thomas is a fine choice as is Tug Coker's File. Both bring a bit of reality and good old down to earth common sense to the Curry family.

"The Rainmaker" fits nicely into the classic bookcase for The Globe's purpose. For yours truly, it's dated and demeaning.

See you at the theatre.

Dates: Through Aug. 11th

Organization: The Old Globe Theatre

Phone: 619-234-5623

Production Type: Romantic Comedy

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego, CA



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: La Jolla Light
Publication Date: July 25, 2013
Page Number: B28
Circulation: 14,822
Size: 50 sq inch
Value: \$1,198.84



Let's Review

DIANA SAENGER

Cast delivers a quiet tale of triumph in Globe's 'Rainmaker'



The Old Globe's production of N. Richard Nash's, "The Rainmaker," sizes up the Curry family in the 1930s drought-ridden Midwest pretty quickly. Mrs. Curry is no longer around and patriarch H.C.

(John Judd) seems to have his hands full with worrying about the homestead and three very different and independent children.

Noah (Peter Douglas) has a huge chip on his shoulder. Maybe it's because he's the one who has to do most of the labor around the place. He can't abide younger brother Jim (Kyle Harris) and he surely does not understand his sister, Lizzie (Danielle Skraastad).

The girl hasn't found a husband. Her dad

wants so badly for her to be happy. He and the boys even make a trip to the sheriff's office to entice File (Tug Coker) over for dinner so maybe the two will connect. File wants none of it. His wife ran out on him

and he hasn't gotten over that yet.

Directed by Maria Mileaf, the script (which became a 1956 film starring Burt Lancaster, Katharine Hepburn and Wendell Corey) is really about dreams, and who how has the yearning to chase them and who won't take the risk.

When a stranger, who calls himself Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe), arrives and introduces himself as a rainmaker, the family allows him in to hear his spiel. Like any good snake-oil

If you go

- **What:** 'The Rainmaker'
- **When:** Matinees, evenings to Aug. 11
- **Where:** The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park, San Diego
- **Tickets:** From \$29
- **Box Office:** (619) 234-5623
- **Website:** TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
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salesman of that era, Bill Starbuck has his shtick down. "You're in a parcel of trouble," he tells them after rattling off how many cattle they've already lost.

H.C. takes heed probably knowing it's a hoax; yet desperate. Jim is a happy-go-lucky kid who's on top of the world because he has a new girlfriend. He thinks they should give Starbuck a try, even if the man wants \$100.

Noah is as fit-to-be-tied as he was five minutes ago. Preaching to his dad not to spend the money and chastising Jim for being a knucklehead in getting mixed up with a girl that puts taboo thoughts in his head. The arguments go on until H.C. is finally encouraged by Lizzie to give Starbuck a chance.

Starbuck not only wants to make some dough, he's taken a liking to Lizzie. At first, she shuns him, but then Noah spews some harsh reminders (telling her and anyone else in ear range) that she's too plain a woman to ever get a man.

The cast makes a great ensemble. Akinagbe has con man written all over his smiling face when Starbuck walks through the door. Judd wears H.C.'s shoulder pads of emotion evenly — worrying about the rain and his Lizzie; and looking for a miracle at the hands of a stranger. The tall Coker stands his ground as File, and Culture Clash's Herbert Siguenza is back in



Lizzie Curry (Danielle Skraastad) isn't quite sure what to make of the stranger Starbuck (Gbenga Akinagbe).

JIM COX

town as Sheriff Thomas. Harris adds much energy to the play as young Jim. With his carefree attitude and advice to his father — "Pop, the whole world's gonna blow up!" — the only problem he has is keeping Noah off his case. Douglas plays Noah superbly; he's definitely a character one loves to hate. Each time he screams at Lizzie, you can almost hear the audience's fingers digging into the arms of their seats.

Skraastad is a delight to watch in Lizzie's emotional seesaw. At times she's angry, at others she's gleeful, and eventually, she's able to at least hope her dreams may come true. If only it will rain.



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Let's Review: Cast delivers a quiet tale of triumph in Globe's 'Rainmaker'

By Diana Saenger

The Old Globe's production of N. Richard Nash's, "The Rainmaker," sizes up the Curry family in the 1930s drought-ridden Midwest pretty quickly. Mrs. Curry is no longer around and patriarch H.C. (John Judd) seems to have his hands full with worrying about the homestead and three very different and independent children.

Noah (Peter Douglas) has a huge chip on his shoulder. Maybe it's because he's the one who has to do most of the labor around the place. He can't abide younger brother Jim (Kyle Harris) and he surely does not understand his sister, Lizzie (Danielle Skraastad).

The girl hasn't found a husband. Her dad wants so badly for her to be happy. He and the boys even make a trip to the sheriff's office to entice File (Tug Coker) over for dinner so maybe the two will connect. File wants none of it. His wife ran out on him and he hasn't gotten over that yet.



Lizzie Curry (Danielle Skraastad) isn't quite sure what to make of the stranger Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe). Jim Cox

Directed by Maria Mileaf, the script (which became a 1956 film starring Burt Lancaster, Katharine Hepburn and Wendell Corey) is really about dreams, and who how has the yearning to chase them and who won't take the risk.

When a stranger, who calls himself Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe), arrives and introduces himself as a rainmaker, the family allows him in to hear his spiel. Like any good snake-oil salesman of that era, Bill Starbuck has his shtick down. "You're in a parcel of trouble," he tells them after rattling off how many cattle they've already lost. H.C. takes heed probably knowing it's a hoax; yet desperate. Jim is a happy-go-lucky kid who's on top of the world because he has a new girlfriend. He thinks they should give Starbuck a try, even if the man wants \$100.

Noah is as fit-to-be-tied as he was five minutes ago. Preaching to his dad not to spend the money and chastising Jim for being a knucklehead in getting mixed up with a girl that puts taboo thoughts in his head. The arguments go on until H.C. is finally encouraged by Lizzie to give Starbuck a chance.

Starbuck not only wants to make some dough, he's taken a liking to Lizzie. At first, she shuns him, but then Noah spews some harsh reminders (telling her and anyone else in ear range) that she's too plain a woman to ever get a man.

The cast makes a great ensemble. Akinnagbe has con man written all over his smiling face when Starbuck walks through the door. Judd wears H.C.'s shoulder pads of emotion evenly — worrying about the rain and his Lizzie; and looking for a miracle at the hands of a stranger. The tall Coker stands his ground as File, and Culture Clash's Herbert Siguenza is back in town as Sheriff Thomas.

Harris adds much energy to the play as young Jim. With his carefree attitude and advice to his father — “Pop, the whole world's gonna blow up!” — the only problem he has is keeping Noah off his case. Douglas plays Noah superbly; he's definitely a character one loves to hate. Each time he screams at Lizzie, you can almost hear the audience's fingers digging into the arms of their seats.

Skraastad is a delight to watch in Lizzie's emotional seesaw. At times she's angry, at others she's gleeful, and eventually, she's able to at least hope her dreams may come true. If only it will rain.

If you go

- What: 'The Rainmaker'
- When: Matinees, evenings to Aug. 11
- Where: The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park, San Diego
- Tickets: From \$29
- Box Office: (619) 234-5623
- Website: TheOldGlobe.org

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Entertainment :: Theatre

The Rainmaker

by Rodney Rodriguez

EDGE Contributor

Thursday Jul 25, 2013

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Danielle Skraastad as Lizzie Curry and Gbenga Akinagbe as Bill Starbuck in N. Richard Nash's 'The Rainmaker' (Source: Jim Cox)

A crippling drought overruns a small depression-era Western town and the Curry family finds itself squarely in its path in N. Richard Nash's **"The Rainmaker"** now playing at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park.

Lizzie (Danielle Skraastad) is the spinster daughter of H.C. (John Judd), a farmer and father to Lizzie and two boys, Noah (Peter Douglas) and Jim (Kyle Harris). As the drought worsens and his cattle start to die off, H.C. finds himself preoccupied with Lizzie's happiness rather than rescuing a farm that is succumbing to the inhospitable conditions.

After returning from an unsuccessful attempt at finding a husband, Lizzie starts to give up hope of finding wedded bliss until a fast-talking conman named Starbuck (Gbenga Akinagbe) wanders onto the farm. Promising to bring rain for only \$100, he instead brings hope, self-respect and confidence to a wilted crop more important than any grain.

Director Maria Mileaf does a spectacular job of painting an unconventional fairytale on the backdrop of the dustbowl. Carving out moments of intense discomfort, Mileaf's work even caused one audience member to shout out in her own frustration mid-performance expressing her disapproval of the heavy irony of this play. Leaving onlookers wondering who is the real Rainmaker and whether the road to

hell is truly paved with good intentions, Mileaf dutifully revives this mid-century classic.

Skraastad is superb as the stale Lizzie who can't help but hope for so much more. Harris, making a return to The

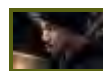
Skraastad is superb as the stale Lizzie who can't help but hope for so much more. Harris, making a return to The Old Globe, provides an innocence and absolute carefree attitude to younger brother Jim. His playful saunter and warm smile made a



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to elevate



One of the years hap Day 2009 police. No drama.

Old Globe, provides an innocence and absolute carefree attitude to younger brother Jim.

brilliant contrast to the cold, overly-logical older brother Noah.

It is no secret that, at least initially, the star of the show is Neil Patel's set design. Lending to the theme of magic and wonder, Patel's set materializes in seconds during the opening blackout and, as the lights come up, a full living- and dining-room stand where a barren stage previously resided. There were bonus points for the wow factor right off the bat and even more for providing seamless and quick set changes that kept the pace of the show moving quickly.

Other small details that lent to the mysticism of this show was Bart Fasbender's sound design that included creaking screen doors and the sounds of many off-stage antics. Nash is masterful in creating unseen characters and scenes that seem so real you almost forget they never turned up on stage. To accomplish this there must be an ardent cast and crew paying attention to every detail, and few details were missed.

Actions and objectives, magic and coincidence, and plenty of laughs throughout lend an air of enchantment to "The Rainmaker." With a quick pace and rapid-fire repartee, this production zooms by in under two hours and sends the crowd home with heart, a little hope and a satisfied dance in a downpour of wonderful RomCom clichés.

"The Rainmaker" runs through August 11 on the Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. For more info or tickets, call 619-23-GLOBE or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

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“SIDEWAYS” – LJ Playhouse, “THE RAINMAKER” – The Old Globe & “A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM, THE MUSICAL” – Intrepid Shakespeare Co.

Something old, something new, and something both borrowed and blue.

Borrowed – or adapted -- from other entertainment formats, that is. “Sideways” started out as a novel by Rex Pickett, and became a wildly popular movie in 2004. Now Pickett has re-conceived the story as a stage-play.

The central characters remain the same: two narcissistic slimeballs. Jack, a wannabe actor surfer-dude, wants one final fling before his wedding. His buddy Miles is a divorced, depressed, desperate writer, a borderline alcoholic and pedantic word-and-wine freak. His bachelor party for Jack is a whirlwind tour of in the Santa Ynez Valley vineyards where, between stupors, they meet up with two wineistas. Jack has a tempestuous, randy affair with Terra, while Miles is more tentative with Maya.

These puerile sleazes, who lie, cheat and even steal from Mom, end up in inverse relationships: one gets money but not love; the other may have love, but no money. Neither one deserves anything good. And yet, their ridiculous shenanigans, peppered with F-bombs, are irresistibly amusing. Pickett writes terrific dialogue – but not very fleshed-out females. The women are beautiful cyphers; both get to display explosively justified anger, but little else.

Still, the journey is engaging, replete with sex, nosebleeds, a car crash and a much-fired rifle. Des McAnuff directs with a light hand, and Robert Brill’s set is striking, backed by gorgeous, painterly wine country scenery.

The performances are first-rate. The lighting, sound and costumes are perfect. You may learn something about wine, but these unsavory guys might leave you with a hangover.

Women aren’t given too much latitude in “The Rainmaker,” either. In N. Richard Nash’s 1954 portrait of

Depression-era drought, Lizzie Curry is 27 and destined for spinsterhood. She's plain, as her brother so kindly reminds her, and has few options and little hope. Then, in walks Starbuck, a con-man who promises a deluge for 100 dollars. He winds up transforming the whole family.

In the Old Globe's handsomely designed production, warmly directed by Maria Mileaf, the father-son and father-daughter dynamics are excellently portrayed. It's Starbuck who lacks the requisite charm and charisma. But Mileaf makes this Lizzie's story, and in Danielle Skraastad's hands, it's potent and poignant.

Now, for a little musical-comical relief, consider Shakespeare done doo-wop. Intrepid Shakespeare Company is reprising last year's wonderful rendering of "A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Musical," with a mostly new cast. Kevin Hafso-Koppman is an acrobatic wonder as the magical Puck, and Phil Johnson is absolutely side-splitting, indubitably born to play the asinine would-be actor, Bottom. The direction and choreography are inspired, though I miss last summer's stunning rope-swinging pas de deux. Nonetheless, this show is a winner; and an ultra-fun family outing.

So, it's dry, wet or dreamy. Choose your mid-summer diversion.

"THE RAINMAKER" runs at The Old Globe through August 11.

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, THE MUSICAL" plays through August 18 at Intrepid Shakespeare Company in Encinitas.

"SIDEWAYS" continues at the La Jolla Playhouse through August 25.

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"COMPANY" – Cygnet, "PERFECT WEDDING" – NCRT, 'FREEDOM OF SPEECH' – Moxie & "BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON"- Chance Theatre

America, its history and eccentrics, features in four disparate productions that weirdly interconnect. It's an overstuffed week of theater, but then, our country is kinda bulging, too – with citizens and stories. So is this jam-packed review... so hang on, it's gonna be a whirlwind ride.

History first: the wacky, raunchy, rock musical tale of our 7th president, provocatively titled "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson." Chance Theatre in Anaheim has reconfigured its intimate storefront space into a scruffy Wild West tavern. And there, our forebears of the 18th-19th century, led by that pugnacious Tennessean, "Old Hickory," do battle with the British, the Spanish, the Indians -- and each other. The show is a rockin', rollicking good time, well sung, satirically sharp, and amusingly acted by 13 versatile performers, directed by Cari Hayter. Worth the trip to Orange County.

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THE RAINMAKER

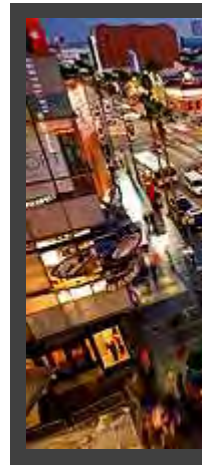
STAGEscenELA
WOW!

You'd think that a play that ran a mere 125 performances on Broadway way back in 1954 would have faded into almost instant obscurity. Not so with L. Richard Nash's *The Rainmaker*, which is doing just fine and dandy nearly sixty years later, as *The Old Globe's* captivating, innovative revival makes abundantly clear.



Not only does *The Rainmaker* not seem dated nearly sixty years after its Broadway debut, it's as funny and heartwarming as any play being premiered today, and despite its Great Depression time frame, it might as well be taking place somewhere in Middle America circa 2013.

At the lights up on the Curry farm somewhere out west in Depression-era America, Lizzie Curry (Danielle Skraastad) has just returned from a week spent with relatives in the quest of a husband, an empty-handed return to the family homestead that has her despairing of ever finding someone who'll appreciate the intelligent, plain-spoken, straight-speaking woman she is. H.C. (John Judd), her "Pop," has been telling Lizzie since she was a little girl that she's smart and beautiful. Kid brother Jimmy (Kyle Harris) loves his big sis so much that he'd do anything to help find her a beau. Only older brother Noah (Peter Douglas) sees Lizzie as he believes she really is—a plain girl that no one will come to on a white horse and snatch up in his arms and marry. Since Lizzie always seems to say and do exactly the wrong thing when she's with a man, this still young woman's self esteem is so low that you can imagine which family member she believes.



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The local deputy Sherriff, File (Tug Coker), seems the most likely beau for Lizzie, but he's been burned by love (the so-called "widower" is in fact a divorcé whose wife walked out on him), and is not about to be hurt again, or even to accept an invitation to dine with the Currys.

The Rainmaker unfolds over the course of a single hot summer day and night in a western state in the middle of a long and demoralizing drought. If ever there was a time for a miracle, this is that time, and just when everyone has lost hope of ever seeing a drop of precipitation again, who should arrive but a man named Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe), promising rain for a mere 100 dollars.



Noah of course believes not a word of Starbuck's promises, Jimmy is eager to give it a try, and Lizzie is the most skeptical of all. H.C., however, pays Starbuck the whole hundred bucks (\$1500 today when adjusted for inflation) . "You're a liar and a con man," he tells Starbuck, "but I'm going to write it as a gamble. I've lost more'n that in poker on a Saturday night."

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know that Lizzie will eventually melt under Starbuck's spell. Still, there are surprises to be had and discoveries to be made, both by the audience and by the characters in the play.

Nash's dialog is as fresh today as ever, and though very much a comedy despite its dramatic moments, The Rainmaker is a play without a single joke or one-liner. Every laugh (and there are many) comes from character and situation. Rarely has there been a comedy which offers its actors such real characters to play, and under Maria Mileaf's polished direction, the entire Curry clan and the play's two law enforcement officers do inspired, thoroughly believable work.

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WOW!



As editor of Stage
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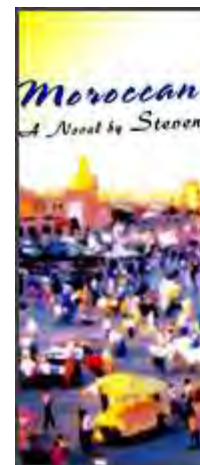
Skraastad's Lizzie is the evening's undisputed star, a feisty young woman whose repressed longings are so raw and burning, she seems about to burst with them at any time. Skraastad can have you laughing one minute at her side-splitting mimicry of beautiful-but-dumb Lily Ann Beasley and then wiping away tears at her response to H.C.'s "You're afraid of bein' beautiful" with an anguished "I'm afraid to *think* I am when I *know* I'm *not*!" And just wait till Lizzie lets her hair down and relish Skraastad's palpable joy at being able to toss her luxurious mane this way and that. Like this reviewer, you may have seen a number of Lizzie Currys before, but Skraastad makes her feel brand new.

A fine and folksy Judd gives us a warm, wise H.C. who's steadfastly unwilling to give up on his Lizzie just yet. An equally terrific Douglas makes it clear that Noah's determination to make his sister give up her impossible hopes and dreams comes from a place of love. As for Harris, there's no more appealing young New York-based actor than the triple-threat star of the National Tour of *West Side Story* and last year's Old Globe musical adaptation of *A Room With A View*, his kid brother Jimmy a boundless tornado of teenage joie de vivre and spunk that deserves his own spin-off.



As File, the statuesque Coker (who played Larry Bird on Broadway last year) recalls film giants James Stewart and Henry Fonda, an all-American good guy who lets stubbornness get in the way of his happiness and who remains blissfully clueless to his tall, dark, and handsome appeal. Herbert Siguenza (of *Culture Clash* fame) couldn't be more delightful in his brief scenes as Sheriff Thomas.

Setting the Old Globe revival apart from productions which have preceded it is the rather revolutionary casting as Starbuck of African-American Akinagbe, a gifted young actor whose dynamic presence in this *Rainmaker* has both its pluses and minuses given the play's time frame and setting. Having a black Starbuck certainly ups the would-be



rainmaker's status as both outsider and exotic presence among these white-bread (and white-bred) Midwesterners, factors that are certainly part of playwright Nash's original vision. On the other hand, this non-traditional casting does require a suspension of disbelief which runs counter to the otherwise utter credibility of the entirely real (and ordinary) universe Nash has created.



Scenic designer Neil Patel has created a world in which burning sun, pancake-flat plains, and a resolutely immobile windmill provide an ever-present backdrop to the Curry farm and other assorted locales, a design which only a theater of The Old Globe's means could reproduce on the large Donald and Darlene Shiley stage. Katherine Roth's homespun costumes, Japhy Weideman's vivid lighting, and Bart Fasbender's crisp sound complete a world-class design package. Additional kudos go to vocal and dialect coach Ryan Bettie Scrimger and to fight director George Yé, who choreographs a particularly authentic-looking bit of fisticuffs.

Monica A. Cuoco is stage manager and Taris Hurstell assistant stage manager. Also assisting with the production are assistant director Jessica Bird, assistant scenic designer Sean Fanning, associate costume designer Charlotte Devaux, assistant lighting designer Jason Bieber, and stage management interns Meredith O'Gwynn and Sonja Thorson.

Despite its somewhat problematic (albeit laudable) introduction of an interracial aspect to The Rainmaker's classic love story, The Old Globe's generally splendid 21st Century revival of L. Richard Nash's mid-20th Century classic makes magic down San Diego way.

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through August 11. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:00. Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00. Saturdays at 2:00 and 8:00. Sundays at 2:00 and 7:00. Also Wednesday July 31 at 2:00. Reservations: 619 234-5623

www.oldglobe.org

—Steven Stanley
July 29, 2013
Photos: Jim Cox

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The Rainmaker, San Diego [!\[\]\(dfbd6b3763a6d1d9afaa974f64e2e4b5_img.jpg\) \[the-rainmaker-san-diego.html?tmpl=component&print=1&page=\]\(/theater/1054-the-rainmaker-san-diego.html?tmpl=component&print=1&page=\)](/theater/1054-the-rainmaker-san-diego.html?tmpl=component&print=1&page=) [!\[\]\(b89ecf30df3dbaee65fa9f1829524a6e_img.jpg\) \[link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdWx0dXJldnVsdHVyZS5uZXQvdGh\]\(http://www.culturevulture.net/theater/1054-the-rainmaker-san-diego.html?tmpl=component&print=1&page=&link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdWx0dXJldnVsdHVyZS5uZXQvdGh\)](http://www.culturevulture.net/theater/1054-the-rainmaker-san-diego.html?tmpl=component&print=1&page=&link=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdWx0dXJldnVsdHVyZS5uZXQvdGh)



Danielle Skraastad and Gbenga Akinnagbe in The Old Globe's "The Rainmaker"
Photo by Jim Cox

'The Rainmaker'

Written by N. Richard Nash
 Directed by Maria Mileaf
[Old Globe Theatre \(http://theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?performanceNumber=10292\)](http://theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?performanceNumber=10292),
 San Diego
 July 13 – Aug. 11, 2013

The power of hope during hard times is at the heart of an American classic, "The Rainmaker," receiving a compelling revival production at The Old Globe.

Set in a drought-ridden rural town in the 1930s, "The Rainmaker" tells the story of a pivotal summer day in the life of plain-spoken, plain-looking Lizzie Curry (superbly portrayed by Danielle Skraastad). Unmarried and quickly



approaching her society-decreed shelf life, Lizzie keeps house for her father and two brothers on the family's once prosperous now parched cattle ranch. Despite increasing numbers of livestock dying in their tracks, the

men folk exhibit more despair over Lizzie's marriage prospects.

The tale begins just after Lizzie's return from a week-long trip, arranged by her father, H.C. Curry (John Judd, in a heartfelt performance), to visit distant relatives and their bumper crop of boys. The trip was for naught, as Lizzie relays the humiliation of being appraised like a heifer only to be left in the bridal arena without a single bidder.

Undaunted, H.C. tells Lizzie to set another place for supper and heads to town to fetch a fella. Accompanying H.C. are sons Noah (Peter Douglas), who is all business as the ranch foreman, and on-the-cusp-of-manhood Jim (Kyle Harris), an endearing tangle of bluster, angst, and hormones. The trio comes up dry when lawman File (Tug Coker) senses a courtship trap disguised as an innocent invitation to a poker game. An earlier scene between File and Sheriff Thomas (Herbert Siguenza, well known to San Diego audiences as a founder and performer of the politically charged performance group Culture Clash) reveals why the deputy, who is sweet on Lizzie, is gun shy of matrimony.

That extra chair at the table is soon occupied when a gust of wind flings open the Curry's front door and in strides Bill Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe, whose performance is uneven: less convincing in dealing with the men, more effective and sizzling in later love scenes with Lizzie).

Starbuck wastes no time becoming enmeshed and embroiled with everyone's lives. His charms and cajoling, however, receive decidedly mixed reactions: Lizzie and Noah take an immediate dislike and distrust of him while Jim's admiration verges on adoration of the stranger's cock-sure manner. H.C., too, falls under Starbuck's spell and doesn't bat an eye at handing over \$100 in hard-earned cash in exchange for an audacious promise to open up the skies.

Director Maria Mileaf meets and exceeds formidable challenges in bringing this heritage play to today's stage, not the least of which is making the audience forget the memorable 1954 film starring Burt Lancaster and Katharine Hepburn and putting aside, in order to inhabit Lizzie's world for an evening, the enormous gains in social equality made by women in recent decades.

Neil Patel's scenic design fashions thirsty looking wood into the Curry's comfortable ranch house, the sheriff's scruffy office, and the unswept tack room. These elements are juxtaposed against Japhy Weideman's peerless lighting design of a flat blue, cloudless sky with a twilight margin hinting at blowing dust. Helping convey set changes is Bart Fasbender's sound design of easy-on-the-ear guitar and banjo tunes like those that might arise from darkened porches on hot summer nights.

Katherine Roth's costume design is for the most part monochromatic in keeping with the diminished nature of the times. The exceptions are a flattering lemon frock Lizzie dons in anticipation of a gentleman caller and the golden-wheat color of Starbuck's suit: an unspoken promise of the return to prosperity.

Lynne Friedmann

Show REVIEWS & Commentaries!

Play REVIEW Commentary (As seen 7/21/13)
SD Old Globe Theatre:



Gbenga Akinnagbe

Per Robert Hampton



Man, is it dry 'round here. Cattle a-droppin' like flies in the gulch ... calves goin' unfed; a feller has nary a lick o' wet on the whistle. Yep, could sure use some rain ... it's drought time on the plains,

Kyle Harris as JIM CURRY

1930's.

ZERO IN ON THE RAINMAKER

Where: SD Old Globe Theatre

Dates: 7/21 ...

www.oldglobetheatre.com



A grim and financially scary time... ala Dustbowl! But, hold it right there! Some funny moments are about to pop-up in **N. Richard Nash's THE RAINMAKER**, the SD Old Globes' latest production - running July 13th to August 11th, 2013 beautifully directed... **Maria Mileaf**.

Tug Coker, Kyle Harris and John Judd

The H.R. CURRY family ranch is hit hard ... there are no exceptions. Things have gone pretty well on the ranch, up till now - what with pragmatic oldest son NOAH CURRY (*played by Peter Douglas*) running things - and they run a prosperous ranch. NOAH also runs the family as well - this is a family of adults old 'dad' ...HR (*by John Judd*), his daughter - spinsterish LIZZIE (*played by Danielle Skraastad*), and youngest son JIM (*by Kyle Harris*) - and JIM, is a kick in the pants ... a smarty young 'un! **Tug Coker** plays FILE. The stage sets are stylish, in ranch style ... solid and simple, leather, wood and no- nonsense trusses mark the one story ranch house. A windmill off in the distance, signals solitude ... as do lonely fence posts and fences. *Kudos* to Scenic Designer **Neil Patel** ... while costumes also are quite authentic - jeans, cowboy shirts, and suspenders. LIZZIE's best dress is a white, 3/4 length affair with lace, buttoned up to the neck ... thanks to Costume Designer **Katherine Roth**. The production's sound is by **Bart Fasbender** - in conjunction with the lighting by **Japhy Weidman**.



Danielle Skraastad



Daughter LIZZIE (*photo left*) has hit a bit of a dry patch herself, in the romance department that is. She has a stop-and-go approach to landin' a man! Not secure about her feminine wiles - she seems unable to squelch her tom boy tendencies ... though she likes men. LIZZIE has a secret yearning for Sheriff TOM (*he*

says he's a widder feller' - but actually his wife dumped him for a school teacher ... of all things!), and getting TOM and LIZZIE together, is trickier than fighting two rattlers ... with one hoe! Maybe a little magic is called for! So, the men of the family have attempted to help - by inviting the good Sheriff to dinner - but he cannot come, because he is huntin' a varmint ... who sells people dreams!



Now, out of a clear blue sky (*we do not like these clear blue skies around here, mind you!*) a feller by the name of BILL STARBUCK (*played by Gbenga Akinnagbe*) shows up unannounced - but, with a solution to their problems ... he can produce a good rain storm for you!. Just pick your type - drizzle, cloudburst, or gentle rain - you name it ... and all for only \$100.00. Desperate, the family goes for it ... STARBUCK is hired ... *wahoo* ... the fun begins.



Danielle Skraastad (LIZZIE), John Judd (HC CURRY), Peter Douglas (NOAH CURRY), Gbenga Akinnagbe (BILL STARBUCK) and Kyle Harris (JIM CURRY)

Now mind you, LIZZIE is quite despondent over her lack of prospects for marriage (*no one has ever asked*). Her frustration drives her to consider STARBUCK and his miracles. Starbuck is a real charmer ... he tells LIZZIE how beautiful she is, as she gently loosens her hair from her bun. Magic happens ... and indeed, the world seems new. Only one thing, John Law is hot on the con man's trail - in the form of Sheriff TOM ... definitely, a fun evening ... your faith in faith, might just be renewed.



Cast of ... THE RAINMAKER



FEATURES

Client Name: The Old Globe
 Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
 Publication Date: July 11, 2013
 Page Number: 028
 Circulation: 408,825
 Size: 100 sq inch
 Value: \$9,177.22

N+D

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JULY 11 - 17, 2013
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THEATER



BY

JAMES HEBERT

JIM HEBERT
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 (619) 293-2040



DID YOU KNOW?

TO CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF N. RICHARD NASH'S BIRTH THIS YEAR, FRIENDS AND FAMILY HAVE SET UP A FACEBOOK PAGE: FACEBOOK.COM/NRICHARDNASH

"THE RAINMAKER" >

When: Previews begin Saturday. Opens July 18.
 Performances: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays (no matinees this weekend). Through Aug. 11.
Where: Old Globe Theatre's Shiley Stage, Balboa Park
Tickets: About \$29-\$97
Phone: (619) 234-5623
Online: theoldglobe.org



Gbenga Akinagbe as Bill Starbuck and Danielle Skraastad as Lizzie Curry in N. Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker" at the Old Globe Theatre. JIM COX

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

OLD GLOBE TAKES 'THE RAINMAKER' BACK IN TIME TO THE 1930s

It's been a long time since San Diego officially sought the services of an old-fashioned rainmaker. And history points to some pretty good reasons. (Aside from, that is, the dubious science behind the idea.) The last time, after all, things didn't go so well.

In 1916, the city's leaders — vexed over a crippling drought — hired the celebrated Charles M. Hatfield to coax the skies to open.

And rain it did — so much so that neighborhoods were flooded, bridges were washed away and lives were lost. Instead of paying Hatfield, the city wound up threatening to hold him liable for the damage. Their court battles ground on for 22 years, until Hatfield finally was exonerated.

Nearly 100 years later, Hatfield — who lived in San Diego County for a time — is making a homecoming of sorts. This week, the Old Globe Theatre begins performances of N. Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker," the classic 1954 work inspired at least in part by the saga of the real-life rainmaker.

The play, perhaps best remembered for the 1956 movie version starring Katharine Hepburn and Burt Lancaster, involves a charismatic, Hatfield-esque figure who insists he can help save a struggling Texas farm from drought during the Great Depression.

But the play focuses less on the efforts of Bill Starbuck (played at the Globe by Gbenga Akinagbe) to summon rain from the skies than on the way his arrival opens up new horizons for Lizzie (Danielle Skraastad), the headstrong farm gal who begins to fall for him.

Maria Mileaf, the seasoned New York director (and 1990 UC San Diego MFA grad) who is directing the production, says her main focus is on preserving the spirit of the original while making sure its tone and themes connect with 21st-century playgoers.

"The family story, Lizzie's quest to find happiness, is (surprisingly) contemporary," Mileaf says. "So that's the trick for me, is how to create a compelling narrative that's set in the '30s, but also open up the family dynamic, the love triangle, the aspirations and fears and obstacles for the characters in a way that is recognizable to a contemporary audience."

"Also, when (Nash) wrote the play, it was the 1950s, so there are some challenging dynamics that have more to do with the '50s than the '30s. But you know, wanting something and not being able to get it — anybody can understand that quest."

Mileaf and her design team — which includes her husband and fellow UC San Diego grad, set designer Neil Patel — also have been keying in on how to get across visually "the central event of the play, this crippling drought. Both in terms of weather and metaphorically, there's this dryness."

"I'm excited about what we did," she adds, "I think it's going to create the environment to tell the story but not distract from it — to open it up in a way that's fresh and imaginative."

'Rainmaker' on the horizon

Old Globe revives classic play about a fast talker who precipitates romance

By [James Hebert \(/staff/james-hebert/\)](/staff/james-hebert/) 12:58 p.m. July 9, 2013



[\(/photos/2013/jul/09/1056593/\)](/photos/2013/jul/09/1056593/)

Danielle Skraastad (left) is Lizzie Curry and Gbenga Akinagbe is Bill Starbuck in the Old Globe Theatre production of N. Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker." — *Jim Cox*

It's been a long time since San Diego officially sought the services of an old-fashioned rainmaker. And history points to some pretty good reasons. (Aside from, that is, the dubious science behind the idea.)

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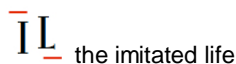
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THE IMITATED LIFE STAGE BLOG: OLD GLOBE ANNOUNCES CAST & CREATIVE FOR "THE RAINMAKER"

OLD GLOBE ANNOUNCES CAST & CREATIVE FOR "THE RAINMAKER"



www.theoldglobe.org

The Old Globe today announced the cast and creative team for the Globe's revival of N. Richard Nash's classic romantic comedy *The Rainmaker*. Directed by Maria Mileaf, *The Rainmaker* will run July 13 – August 11, 2013 on the Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage in the Old Globe Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Preview performances run July 13 – July 17. Opening night is Thursday, July 18 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

The Rainmaker is set against the sweeping landscape of the American Midwest. On her family's drought-ridden ranch, Lizzie's hopes and dreams have run as dry as the barren fields. When the irresistible Starbuck arrives in town, selling the promise of rain, Lizzie must decide: is he a con man, or does he hold the key to everything she desires?

"It's the Globe's pleasure to add a sweet note of romance to the beautiful San Diego summer," said Old Globe Artistic Director Barry Edelstein. "The Rainmaker's story of a young woman's search for love and for self in the vast open spaces of the American plains continues to resonate. The Old Globe's production, under the visionary direction of Maria Mileaf, finds the beating heart in a gorgeous play that deserves its place in the pantheon of American classics."

Danielle Skraastad makes her Globe debut as Lizzie. Her Broadway credits include *All My Sons*, and her Off Broadway credits include *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures* (Signature Theatre Company/The Public Theater), *In the Wake* (The Public Theater), *The Pain and the Itch* (Playwrights Horizons), *Anon* (Atlantic Theater Company) and *The Mound Builders* (Signature Theatre Company).

Gbenga Akinagbe plays the mysterious Starbuck. His theater credits include *The Oedipus Cycle* (The Shakespeare Theatre Company), *Henry V* (The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park) and *The Thin Place* (Intiman Theatre). He is also known for his leading role on the HBO series "The Wire" as well as recurring roles on "The Good Wife," "Nurse Jackie" and the new USA series "Graceland."

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The cast of The Rainmaker also features Tug Coker (File), Peter Douglas (Noah Curry), Kyle Harris (Jim Curry), John Judd (H. C. Curry) and Herbert Siguenza (Sheriff Thomas).

The creative team includes Neil Patel (Scenic Design), Katherine Roth (Costume Design), Japhy Weideman (Lighting Design), Bart Fasbender (Sound Design), Ryan Beattie Scrimger (Vocal and Dialect Coach), Caparellotis Casting (Casting) and Monica A. Cuoco (Stage Manager).



Posted by the imitated life at [6/26/2013 11:21 AM](#)

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July 19, 2013

Old Globe Revives “The Rainmaker” with Contemporary Face

by Barbara Smith

Around Town (<http://sdvoice.info/category/around-town/>) | No Comments



(http://sdvoice.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Danielle-Skraastad_Gbenga-Akinnagbe.jpg) The Old Globe’s production of the classic American play “The Rainmaker,” which opened on the Shiley Stage July 16, puts a contemporary face on a timeless classic in American theatre. The play, written by N. Richard Nash in the 1950’s, and which has been translated into over 40 languages, is a wonderful mix of faith, humor, romance, and magic. Lizzie is a plain-Jane on the verge of spinsterhood who longs to escape from her Midwestern drought-ridden farm of the 1930’s. Starbuck is the charismatic conman, who promises to fulfill Lizzie’s deepest yearnings and at the same time end the drought with his magical rain-making powers.

The captivating romantic comedy has enjoyed countless revivals and led to a popular 1956 film starring Katharine Hepburn and Burt Lancaster. So how does one polish an already sparkling gem and add new glow? In the Old Globe’s current incarnation, director Maria Mileaf has pushed the envelope by casting, among a host of accomplished actors, Gbenga Akinnagbe, as the charismatic Starbuck. The choice for her was more organic than deliberate. Mileaf and Akinnagbe took time from a busy rehearsal schedule last week to talk about their love for this simple yet beautifully rendered tale. The dynamics of the relationships among each of the characters, particularly the love triangle that unfolds, is central to the story, the New York-based director says, so that each of the relationships seems honest and authentic. “I didn’t go into casting and say Starbuck has to be black. I was working with a casting director (David Caparelliotis) that I really like and trust. I said to him, ‘I really want Starbuck to be edgy and sexy. He’s the god, the drifter who comes into town and distracts the women.’ I was looking for an actor who had that kind of edge and then a magic with the language. He’s a dream seller or he’s a con man, depending on what your point of view is. I wasn’t looking for the stereotype of the cowboy that rides away into the sunset with the girl. I wanted something edgier, the person you’re not supposed to sneak off and make out with because your brothers would be angry.” Actors of many sizes, shapes and colors auditioned, Mileaf reflects. With Akinnagbe, she found the winning combination of dimension, charisma and authenticity.





(http://sdvoice.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/The_Rainmaker_Group.jpg) Breaking stereotypes underlies much of the work of this cutting-edge director, who earned her MFA from UCSD some 20 years ago. “I’ve always been interested in making choices for casting that might not be what the author intended or what the audience expectation is, but that work to tell a narrative story in a dynamic way. That’s what I think I’m doing here. It’s non-traditional because everybody is expecting Burt Lancaster. But it totally opens the play in a way that people might not be thinking about. Other cast members include Herbert Siguenza, a founding member of iconoclastic performance group Culture Clash, Tug Coker, Peter Douglas, Kyle Harris, and John Judd and Danielle Skraastad.

For Akinragbe, the role of the trickster/dreamer is –well, a dream role. With an impressive



(http://sdvoice.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Gbenga_Akinragbe.jpg)

portfolio of film and television roles, perhaps most memorably as Chris Partlow in TV’s “The Wire,” the Brooklyn-based actor welcomes the challenge of live theatre. “It pushes me as an artist. It makes me feel raw again and I feel fortunate working with this veteran cast.” He has high marks for director Mileaf as well. “She pushes and doesn’t let us settle. You could easily let these fine actors do what they do, make some notes here and there and eventually find a rhythm to the play. But Maria stretches us to go beyond that.” Even for great writers, it’s hard to write something timeless. And “The Rainmaker,” he adds, fulfills that goal. “It speaks to our yearning, our unfulfilled desires, who we are in the world and who we are told we are.”

The magical use of language is especially exhilarating, says Akinragbe. “Starbuck is like a politician. He uses the truth to lie. And he’s got to keep all the balls in the air to make sure that everyone gets what they need in order for him to get what he wants.”

Akinragbe chuckles when asked how he prepared for his audition, referencing the Burt Lancaster precedent. “I really didn’t think they were going to cast me because that would be a brave choice. I know that the industry doesn’t necessarily always make the bravest choices; they usually make the surest choices.” The actor stayed up all night preparing, working to attack the role unfettered by past renderings of Starbuck, and took to the material very quickly. He credits Mileaf’s unwavering vision of a truly contemporary production and the Old Globe’s standing true to a bold mission. “I had fun creating this world. Starbuck is the epitome of

what it is to be a dreamer, someone who believes you can create your reality using your imagination. But he doesn't have the follow through, and so at that level, you are basically a con man.” Allowing the character to arc in his relationships with Lizzie and the community of other characters, to walk that fine line between dreamer and doer, was exciting for Akinnagbe, as is the vibrant interaction with the play's other actors. Mileaf's vision to tell the story without making race the central issue of the production makes for a fascinating subtext. “This is definitely not the affirmative action ‘Rainmaker,’” he says, “and hopefully the best person got the job. I know a lot of the audiences will be coming to see “The Rainmaker” that they are familiar with. I hope they open up to the human story. I think they will.”

“The Rainmaker” plays through August 11. For ticket information, visit www.theoldglobe.org

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"THE RAINMAKER" REVIVAL



by Barbara Smith

San Diego's Old Globe Theatre has put a contemporary face on the timeless classic American play "The Rainmaker," and it promises to be a fresh, exciting production. The captivating romantic comedy, which opened July 16 and runs through August 11, has enjoyed countless revivals, with the role of the charismatic trickster Starbuck played perhaps most memorably by Burt Lancaster in a popular 1956 film adaptation with Katharine Hepburn in the role of Lizzie. In the story, Lizzie is a plain-Jane on the verge of spinsterhood who longs to escape from her Midwestern drought-ridden farm of the 1930's. Starbuck is the smooth-talking conman who promises to fulfill Lizzie's deepest yearnings and at the same time end the drought with his magical rain-making powers. Written by N. Richard Nash in the 1950's, the play is a wonderful mix of faith, humor, romance, and magic.

So how does one add new polish to an already sparkling gem? Director

Maria Mileaf has pushed the envelope by casting, among a host of accomplished actors, Gbenga

Akinagbe, as the seductive charmer Starbuck. The choice for her to burst wide open the stereotypical 1950's leading man image with the African American actor Akinagbe, was more organic than deliberate, Mileaf explained in a pre-opening night conversation. Breaking stereotypes underlies much of the work of this cutting-edge director.

"I've always been interested in making choices for casting that might not be what the author intended or what the audience expectation is, but that work to tell a narrative story in a dynamic way. That's what I think I'm doing here," she offers. "I didn't go into casting with the mindset that Starbuck should be black." Rather, she says, "I told the casting director, 'I really want Starbuck to be edgy and sexy. He's the god, the drifter who comes into town and distracts the women.' I was looking for an actor who had that kind of edge and then a magic with the language. He's a dream seller or a con man, depending on what your point of view is. I wasn't looking for the stereotype of the cowboy that rides away into the sunset with the girl. I wanted something edgier, the person you're not supposed to sneak off and make out with because your brothers would be angry." Actors of many sizes, shapes and colors auditioned, Mileaf reflects. With Akinagbe, she found the winning combination of dimension, charisma and authenticity.

The dynamics of the relationships among each of the characters, particularly the love triangle that unfolds, is central to the story, the New York-based director says. Akinagbe's character, next to Danielle Skraastad as Lizzie and Tug Coker as love rival File, "totally opens the play in a way that people might not be thinking about," she adds. Other cast members include Herbert Siguenza, a founding member of iconoclastic performance group Culture Clash, Peter Douglas, Kyle Harris, and John Judd.

For Akinagbe, the role of the trickster/dreamer is –well, a dream role. With an impressive portfolio of film and television roles, perhaps most memorably as Chris Partlow in TV's "The Wire," the Brooklyn-based actor of Nigerian parentage welcomes the challenge of live theatre. "It pushes me as an artist. It makes me feel raw again and I feel fortunate working with this veteran cast." He has high marks for director Mileaf as well. "She pushes and doesn't let us settle. You could easily let these fine actors do what they do, make some notes here and there and eventually find a rhythm to the play. But Maria stretches us to go beyond that." Even for great writers, it's hard to write something timeless. And "The Rainmaker," he adds, fulfills that goal. "It speaks to our yearning, our unfulfilled desires, who we are in the world and who we are told we are."

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The role of dreamer and doer suits Akinagbe well, whose own arc encompasses not only acting but also activism. As a writer Akinagbe freelances for *The New York Times* and is also a frequent guest on *HuffPost Live*. This spring Akinagbe launched Liberated People (www.weareliberated.com), an eco-friendly, socially conscious brand that celebrates the liberation dates of nations and partners with non-profits around the world.

Mileaf's vision to tell The Rainmaker's simple yet beautifully rendered tale without making race the central issue of the production makes for a fascinating subtext. "This is definitely not the affirmative action 'Rainmaker,'" Akinagbe says, "and hopefully the best person got the job. I know a lot of the

audiences will be coming to see “The Rainmaker” that they are familiar with.” But, he adds, “we’ve brought to life a human story and I think people will get that. I hope they open up to the human story. After the first 5 minutes, people won’t see a black man on stage, they will see Starbucks.”

For a modern 21st century look at a timeless classic, The Old Globe’s “The Rainmaker” promises to provide a brave and sure contemporary lens. For ticket information, visit www.theoldglobe.org.



written by: precinct reporter group

saturday, 27 july 2013 23:38

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Client Name: The Old Globe
 Publication Name: La Jolla Light
 Publication Date: July 04, 2013
 Page Number: B8
 Circulation: 14,822
 Size: 56 sq inch
 Value: \$1,336.59

Desperation, hope collide in Old Globe's 'Rainmaker' revival

If you go

- **What:** 'The Rainmaker'
- **When:** Matinees, evenings July 13-Aug. 11
- **Where:** The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
- **Tickets:** From \$29
- **Box Office:** (619) 234-5623
- **Website:** TheOldGlobe.org

BY DIANA SAENGER

UC San Diego grad Maria Mileaf, is directing a rekindling of N. Richard Nash's classic romantic comedy, "The Rainmaker," at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park this summer.

"The Rainmaker" has quite a history. Since Nash penned it in the 1950s, it has been translated into more than 40 languages, made into a musical, and the 1956 film starring Katharine Hepburn and Burt Lancaster. It has won Academy Awards and a Tony.

Mileaf said she heard about the play, but had not seen it or read the script until The Globe's Artistic Director Barry Edelstein approached her about directing it.

"I found it charming, engaging and quite beautiful," Mileaf said. "It even made me cry to understand the characters and what they were all about."

"The Rainmaker" is set in the 1930s against the sweeping landscape of the drought-ridden Midwest. Spinsterish Lizzie Curry (Danielle Skraastad) has just returned from a family visit where she hoped to find a possible mate. Instead, she's saddled with worry about how to keep the declining ranch going. Yet Lizzie still dreams about finding Mr. Right and wonders if he might possibly be Bill Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe) the charming (soon to be known as a charlatan) man who promises to bring rain in exchange for \$100.

Mileaf directs from the original Nash script and is thrilled to be joined by what she calls "a very exciting

Danielle Skraastad appears as Lizzie Curry and Gbenga Akinnagbe as Bill Starbuck in The Old Globe's 'The Rainmaker.' COURTESY



Maria Mileaf directs 'The Rainmaker' at The Old Globe Theatre. JIM COX

and talented design team" (aka Neil Patel, her husband).

"We've worked together on several projects and work very well together," she said. "He's created a terrific set for this show, which is one of the first things for a director to decide. In this case, the audience must see an environment set in the 1930s, but the set must also create a world that gives a sense of a western drought, while also focusing on a story about characters who need hope."

"Katherine Roth has created beautiful costumes, and I'm delighted with the lighting design by Japhy Weideman, especially how he's lit the background slides."

In the casting process, Mileaf said she found just the right actors for the leads

— Skraastad and Akinnagbe.

"There were challenges to make compelling in a 2013 play about a motherless family-centered girl who yearns to have her own journey and also a father and how he allows her to blossom," Mileaf said. "The love triangle is uppermost. Gbenga read for the part of Starbuck very well. He's very much a dangerous, sexy, stranger. Danielle is amazing. I've seen her on stage before, and she's a beautiful theatrical actor."

Anyone who has seen the play, or the 1956 film, will presumably arrive with certain expectations. Mileaf is ready for that.

"My goal has always been to create a good experience at the theater for the audience," she said. With "The Rainmaker," we are creating something compelling and edgy. One might ask why this girl is falling for a cowboy squeezed into a con man? There are many things in the play people will relate to that still happen in one way or another in 2013.

"This story is for those who want to live happily-ever-after, but in a real way. Not so much in having a dream, but discovering the center of who they are and what they want in this world."



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Desperation, hope collide in Old Globe's 'Rainmaker' revival

If you go

What: 'The Rainmaker'

When: Matinees, evenings July 13-Aug. 11

Where: The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: From \$29

Box Office: (619) 234-5623

Website: TheOldGlobe.org



Danielle Skraastad appears as Lizzie Curry and Gbenga Akinnagbe as Bill Starbuck in The Old Globe's 'The Rainmaker.' Courtesy

By Diana Saenger

UC San Diego grad Maria Mileaf, is directing a rekindling of N. Richard Nash's classic romantic comedy, "The Rainmaker," at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park this summer.

"The Rainmaker" has quite a history. Since Nash penned it in the 1950s, it has been translated into more than 40 languages, made into a musical, and the 1956 film starring Katharine Hepburn and Burt Lancaster. It has

won Academy Awards and a Tony.

Mileaf said she heard about the play, but had not seen it or read the script until The Globe's Artistic Director Barry Edelstein approached her about directing it.

"I found it charming, engaging and quite beautiful," Mileaf said. "It even made me cry to understand the characters and what they were all about."

"The Rainmaker" is set in the 1930s against the sweeping landscape of the drought-ridden Midwest. Spinsterish Lizzie Curry (Danielle Skraastad) has just returned from a family visit where she hoped to find a possible mate. Instead, she's saddled with worry about how to keep the declining ranch going. Yet Lizzie still dreams about finding Mr. Right and wonders if he might possibly be Bill Starbuck (Gbenga Akinnagbe) the charming (soon to be known as a charlatan) man who promises to bring rain in exchange for \$100.

Mileaf directs from the original Nash script and is thrilled to be joined by what she calls "a very exciting and talented design team" (aka Neil Patel, her husband).



Maria Mileaf directs 'The Rainmaker' at The Old Globe Theatre. Jim Cox

"We've worked together on several projects and work very well together," she said. "He's created a terrific set for this show, which is one of the first things for a director to decide. In this case, the audience must see an environment set in the 1930s, but the set must also create a world that gives a sense of a western drought, while also focusing on a story about characters who need hope."

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Client Name: The Old Globe
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 Publication Date: July 04, 2013
 Page Number: B7
 Circulation: 3,645
 Size: 47 sq inch
 Value: \$379.91

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 PHOTO/IRM COX

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Client Name: The Old Globe
 Publication Name: Rancho Santa Fe Review
 Publication Date: July 04, 2013
 Page Number: B5
 Circulation: 6,253
 Size: 60 sq inch
 Value: \$988.70

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Director Maria Mileaf
 PHOTO: JIM COX



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Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Carmel Valley News
Publication Date: July 04, 2013
Page Number: B7
Circulation: 16,980
Size: 46 sq inch
Value: \$366.25



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Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Del Mar Times
Publication Date: July 04, 2013
Page Number: B1,B7
Circulation: 6,288
Size: 48 sq inch
Value: \$387.36



**Old Globe presents
'The Rainmaker,' a
romantic comedy
with long history.
[See page B7](#)**



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Robert Sean Leonard,

Old Globe's Shakespeare Fest Kicks Off June 2 With *Midsummer*; Adrian Noble Celebrates His Final Season

By *Michael Gioia*
02 Jun 2013

William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* kicks off **The Old Globe's** Shakespeare Festival June 2 in San Diego. Olivier Award-nominated director Ian Talbot makes his Old Globe debut with the Shakespeare favorite.

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Broadway director **Adrian Noble** (*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*) returns for his fourth and final season as the artistic director of The Old Globe's Shakespeare Festival and directs *The Merchant of Venice*, with Miles Anderson, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* as part of the Globe's 2013 summer season.

"Seeing Shakespeare outdoors on a balmy summer night is one of the most magical experiences it's possible to have in the theatre, and the Globe's annual Shakespeare Festival is as good as that experience gets," said Old Globe artistic director Barry Edelstein in a previous statement. "One of the reasons it's so special is the talent of our own Adrian Noble, and while he will be leaving the Globe once this summer's Festival is open, all San Diegans will be able to cheer and salute him for giving us another

fantastic season with two superb productions of his own, and a third from the gifted Ian Talbot. The Globe and I thank Adrian for four summers of beautiful work, and we look forward to welcoming him back soon."

Anderson returns to the Festival as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* and as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Jay Whittaker returns for his fourth consecutive Festival season as Oberon in *Midsummer*. Whittaker will also star as Guildenstern, joining Festival newcomer John Lavelle as Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. Lavelle will also appear as Snug

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in *Midsummer* and Lancelot Gobbo in *Merchant*. Also making her Festival debut is Krystel Lucas, who will appear as Titania in *Midsummer* as Portia in *Merchant*.

Lucas Hall, last seen on the Festival stage as *Hamlet*, will reprise the role in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*, as well as play Puck in *Midsummer* and Bassanio in *Merchant*. *Midsummer*'s quartet of star-crossed lovers comprises Winslow Corbett as Hermia, Ryman Sneed as Helena, Nic Few as Demetrius and Adam Gerber as Lysander. *The Merchant of Venice* will feature also Corbett as Jessica, Sneed as Nerissa, Few as Prince of Morocco and Gerber as Lorenzo. In *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Corbett will appear as Ophelia, Sneed as Gertrude and Few as Horatio.

The repertory company also features Donald Carrier, Sherman Howard, Charles Janasz and Triney Sandoval, Erin Elizabeth Adams, Matthew Bellows, Meaghan Boeing, Jeremy Fisher, Adam Gerber, Kushtrim Hoxha, Stephen Hu, Allison Layman, Danielle O'Farrell, Stephanie Roetzel, Christopher Salazar, Robbie Simpson, Whitney Wakimoto and Sean-Michael Wilkinson.

The creative team includes Old Globe associate artist Ralph Funicello (scenic design), Deirdre Clancy (costume design), Alan Burrett (lighting design), Dan Moses Schreier (sound design, original music), Peter Golub (original music), Elan McMahan (music direction), George Yé (fight director), James Vásquez (movement), Jan Gist (voice and dialect coach) and Bret Torbeck (stage manager).

For more information and tickets, call (619) 23-GLOBE or visit TheOldGlobe.org.

Here's a glance at the 2013 summer season:

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

June 2–Sept. 29

Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

"Filled with magic, humor, music and spectacle, Shakespeare's most joyful and popular comedy unfolds in an enchanted forest where fairies play tricks on unsuspecting lovers and bumbling actors are transformed beyond their wildest dreams."

The Merchant of Venice

By William Shakespeare

June 9–Sept. 28

Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

"Renowned actor Miles Anderson returns to the Festival stage as Shylock in Shakespeare's unforgettable tale of mercy and justice, generosity and greed. Anderson has previously appeared at the Globe as Leonardo da Vinci in the West Coast premiere of *Divine Rivalry*, Prospero in *The Tempest*, Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus* and as King George in *The Madness of George III*, which won him the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Craig Noel Award. Adrian Noble directs."

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

By Tom Stoppard

June 16–Sept. 26

Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

Paxton Whitehead and Charlotte Parry in the Old Globe's *Pygmalion*

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"Fast-paced and irresistibly funny, Tom Stoppard's classic farce turns Shakespeare's *Hamlet* inside out. As the story of Hamlet plays out all around them, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern struggle to figure out what it all means and whether they can escape their ultimate fate. Adrian Noble directs Stoppard's Tony Award-winning play."

The Rainmaker

By **N. Richard Nash**

July 13-Aug. 11

Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, Old Globe Theatre

"N. Richard Nash's romantic comedy is set against the sweeping landscape of the American West. On her family's drought-ridden ranch, Lizzie's hopes and dreams have run as dry as the barren fields. When the irresistible Starbuck arrives in town, selling the promise of rain, Lizzie must decide: is he a con man, or does he hold the key to everything she desires?"

Double Indemnity

By **James M. Cain**

Adapted for the stage by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright

July 26-Aug. 25

Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre

"When a small-time insurance agent falls under the spell of a gorgeous femme fatale, the two conspire to murder her husband for the insurance money. It seems like the perfect crime – until it all starts to unravel. Reimagined for the stage, the classic crime novel and film noir masterpiece is sexy, fun and wildly theatrical."

*

The Tony Award-winning Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 productions of classic, contemporary and new works on its three Balboa Park stages: the Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage in the 600-seat Old Globe Theatre and the 250-seat Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre — both part of The Old Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center — and the 605-seat outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, home of its Shakespeare Festival.

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

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Robert Sean Leonard,

The Merchant of Venice, Directed by Adrian Noble, Begins June 9 at Old Globe's Shakespeare Fest

By Michael Gioia

09 Jun 2013

William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by **Adrian Noble** (*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*), who is in the midst of his fourth and final season as the artistic director of **The Old Globe's** Shakespeare Festival, begins performances June 9 in San Diego.

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Noble also directs *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* as part of the Globe's 2013 summer season. The festival kicked off June 2 with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, helmed by Olivier Award-nominated director Ian Talbot.

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Lucas Hall, last seen on the Festival stage as *Hamlet*, will reprise the role in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*, as well as play Puck in *Midsummer* and Bassanio in *Merchant*. *Midsummer*'s quartet of star-crossed lovers comprises Winslow Corbett as Hermia, Ryman Sneed as Helena, Nic Few as Demetrius and Adam Gerber as Lysander. *The Merchant of Venice* also features Corbett as Jessica, Sneed as Nerissa, Few as Prince of Morocco and Gerber as Lorenzo. In *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Corbett will appear as Ophelia, Sneed as Gertrude and Few as Horatio.

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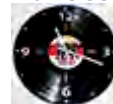


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Miles Anderson and Krystel Lucas
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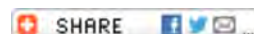
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***Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Directed by Adrian Noble, Begins June 16 at Old Globe's Shakespeare Fest**

By *Michael Gioia*
 16 Jun 2013

Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, directed by **Adrian Noble** (*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*), who is in the midst of his fourth and final season as the artistic director of **The Old Globe's** Shakespeare Festival, begins performances June 16 in San Diego.

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Noble also directs *The Merchant of Venice*, which began performances June 9, as part of the Globe's 2013 summer season. The festival kicked off June 2 with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, helmed by Olivier Award-nominated director Ian Talbot.

"Seeing Shakespeare outdoors on a balmy summer night is one of the most magical experiences it's possible to have in the theatre, and the Globe's annual Shakespeare Festival is as good as that experience gets," said Old Globe artistic director Barry Edelstein in a previous statement. "One of the reasons it's so special is the talent of our own Adrian Noble, and while he will be leaving the Globe once this summer's Festival is open, all San Diegans will be able to cheer and salute him for giving us another fantastic season with two superb productions of his

own, and a third from the gifted Ian Talbot. The Globe and I thank Adrian for four summers of beautiful work, and we look forward to welcoming him back soon."

Miles Anderson returns to the Festival as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* and as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Jay Whittaker returns for his fourth consecutive Festival season as Oberon in *Midsummer*. Whittaker also stars as Guildenstern, joining Festival newcomer John Lavelle as

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Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. Lavelle also appears as Snug in *Midsummer* and Lancelot Gobbo in *Merchant*. Also making her Festival debut is Krystel Lucas, who appears as Titania in *Midsummer* as Portia in *Merchant*.

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Danielle Skraastad to Lead The Old Globe's THE RAINMAKER; Full Cast Announced!

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Wednesday, June 26, 2013; 02:06 PM - by [TV News Desk](#)



The [Old Globe](#) today announced the cast and creative team for the Globe's revival of [N. Richard Nash](#)'s classic romantic comedy The Rainmaker. Directed by [Maria Mileaf](#), The Rainmaker will run July 13 - August 11, 2013 on the Donald and [Darlene Shiley](#) Stage in the [Old Globe Theatre](#), part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center. Preview performances run July 13 - July 17. Opening night is Thursday, July 18 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](#), by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

The Rainmaker is set against the sweeping landscape of the American Midwest. On her family's drought-ridden ranch, Lizzie's hopes and dreams have run as dry as the barren fields. When the irresistible Starbuck arrives in town, selling the promise of rain, Lizzie must decide: is he a con man, or does he hold the key to everything she desires?

"It's the Globe's pleasure to add a sweet note of romance to the beautiful San Diego summer," said Old Globe Artistic Director [Barry Edelstein](#). "The Rainmaker's story of a young woman's search for love and for self in the vast open spaces of the American plains continues to resonate. [The Old Globe](#)'s production, under the visionary direction of [Maria Mileaf](#), finds the beating heart in a gorgeous play that deserves its place in the pantheon of American classics."

[Danielle Skraastad](#) makes her Globe debut as Lizzie. Her Broadway credits include All My Sons, and her Off Broadway credits include The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures ([Signature Theatre](#) Company/[The Public Theater](#)), In the Wake ([The Public Theater](#)), The Pain and the Itch ([Playwrights Horizons](#)), Anon ([Atlantic Theater Company](#)) and The Mound Builders ([Signature Theatre](#) Company).

[Gbenga Akinnagbe](#) plays the mysterious Starbuck. His theater credits include The Oedipus Cycle ([The Shakespeare Theatre Company](#)), Henry V ([The Public Theater](#)'s Shakespeare in the Park) and The Thin Place ([Intiman Theatre](#)). He is also known for his leading role on the HBO series "The Wire" as well as recurring roles on "The Good Wife," "Nurse Jackie" and the new USA series "Graceland."

The cast of The Rainmaker also features [Tug Coker](#) (File), Peter Douglas (Noah Curry), [Kyle Harris](#) (Jim Curry), [John Judd](#) (H. C. Curry) and [Herbert Siguenza](#) (Sheriff Thomas).

The creative team includes [Neil Patel](#) (Scenic Design), [Katherine Roth](#) (Costume Design), [Japhy Weideman](#) (Lighting Design), [Bart Fasbender](#) (Sound Design), Ryan Beattie Scrimger (Vocal and Dialect Coach), [Caparelliotis Casting](#) (Casting) and [Monica A. Cuoco](#) (Stage Manager).

The Rainmaker is supported in part through gifts from Production Sponsors Peter Cooper and Norman Blachford and California Bank & Trust. Additional support is provided by KPMG.

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[N. Richard Nash](#) (Playwright) was born Nathaniel Richard Nusbaum on June 7, 1913, in Philadelphia. While in school at University of Pennsylvania he directed plays at Bryn Mawr, a nearby women's college, and received great reviews for a play he wrote featuring only female characters. Nash received the [Maxwell Anderson](#) Verse Drama Award for Parting at Imsdorf (1940). His other notable theatrical plays include Second Best Bed (1946), The Young and Fair (1948), See the Jaguar(1952), Girls of Summer (1956), Handful of Fire (1958) and the musical Wildcat (1960). During the 1950s, Nash was one of six writers selected by producer [Fred Coe](#) to create serious drama for television. His most famous play, The Rainmaker, appeared in all three mediums: on Broadway in 1954, as a motion picture starring [Katharine Hepburn](#) in 1956 and as a television production in 1982. A musical version of The Rainmaker, entitled 110 Degrees in the Shade, debuted on Broadway in 1963. Among Nash's screenplay credits are Nora Prentiss (1946), Dear Wife (1950) and Top of the World (1955). Adapting the works of others, he wrote the script for The Sainted Sisters (1948) and Porgy and Bess (1959). Later in his career, Nash focused on writing novels. East Wind, Rain (1977), inspired by his time serving with the Office of War Information during World War II, took seven years to research. Other novels include Cry Macho (1975) and Radiance (1983). He died on Dec. 11, 2000, in New York City at the age of 87.

[Maria Mileaf](#) (Director) has directed the New York productions of [Lee Blessing's](#) Body of Water ([Primary Stages](#)) and Going to St. Ives (Outer Critic Circle Award for Best New Play, 2005), Alexandra Gerston-Vassilaros' The Argument ([Vineyard Theatre](#)), [Kira Obolensky's](#) Lobster Alice ([Playwrights Horizons](#)), Vijay Tendulkar'sSakharam Binder and Eric Emmanuel-Schmidt's Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran ([The Play Company](#)), [Brooke Berman's](#) A Perfect Couple (DR2 Theatre), [Oren Safdie's](#) Private Jokes, Public Places (Center for Architecture), [Erik Ehn's](#) 'Maid ([Lincoln Center Festival](#)), [Neena Beber's](#) Hard Feelings (Women's Project), [Julia Cho's](#) 99 Histories ([Cherry Lane Theatre](#)) and Dawn Saito's HA (Dance Theater Workshop). Regionally, her credits include [Patricia Wettig's](#) F2M and [Joanna Murray-Smith's](#) Ninety (New York Stage and Film), Going to St. Ives ([La Jolla Playhouse](#)), [Lucy Prebble's](#) The Sugar Syndrome, [John Belluso's](#) A Nervous Smile and [Noël Coward's](#) Blithe Spirit ([Williamstown Theatre Festival](#)), [Neil LaBute's](#) reasons to be pretty and Tracey [Scott Wilson's](#) The Story ([Philadelphia Theatre Company](#), Barrymore Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play), [Wendy Wasserstein's](#) The Heidi Chronicles (Berkshire Theatre Festival) and Wasserstein's Thirdwith [Christine Lahti](#) ([Geffen Playhouse](#)). On the West End, Mileaf directed [Richard Schiff](#) in [Glen Berger's](#) Underneath the Lintel. She received her M.F.A. from University of California, San Diego.

TICKETS to The Rainmaker 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 July 13 and continue through Aug. 11. Ticket prices start at \$29. Performance times: Previews: Saturday, July 13 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 29 years of age and under, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

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[Danielle Skraastad](#) makes her Globe debut as Lizzie. [Gbenga Akinnagbe](#) plays the mysterious Starbuck. The cast of *The Rainmaker* also features [Tug Coker](#) (File), [Peter Douglas](#) (Noah Curry), [Kyle Harris](#) (Jim Curry), [John Judd](#) (H. C. Curry) and [Herbert Siguenza](#) (Sheriff Thomas).

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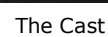
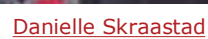
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The Rainmaker to Play Old Globe; Cast and Creative Team Announced

By [Carey Purcell](#)

09 Jul 2013

The cast and creative team have been announced for [The Old Globe's](#) revival of [The Rainmaker](#).

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Performances of [N. Richard Nash's](#) play will begin July 13, prior to an official opening July 18. *The Rainmaker* will run through Aug. 11.

Directed by Maria Milea, the cast will feature [Danielle Skraastad](#) (*All My Sons*, *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*) as Lizzie; Gbenga Akinnagbe (*The Oedipus Cycle*, *Henry V*) as Starbuck; [Tug Coker](#) (*Magic/Bird*) as File; Peter Douglas as Noah Curry; [Kyle Harris](#) as Jim Curry; John Judd as H. C. Curry; and Herbert Siguenza as Sheriff Thomas.

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"It's the Globe's pleasure to add a sweet note of romance to the beautiful San Diego summer," Old Globe artistic director [Barry Edelstein](#) said in a statement. "*The Rainmaker's* story of a young woman's search for love and for self in the vast open spaces of the American plains continues to resonate. The Old Globe's production, under the visionary direction of Maria Mileaf, finds the beating heart in a gorgeous play that deserves its place in the pantheon of American classics."

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The creative team includes **Neil Patel** (scenic design), Katherine Roth (costume design), Japhy Weideman (lighting design), Bart Fasbender (sound design), Ryan Beattie Scrimger (vocal and dialect coach), Caparelliottis Casting (casting) and Monica A. Cuoco (stage manager).

Tickets can be purchased online at TheOldGlobe.org or by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE.



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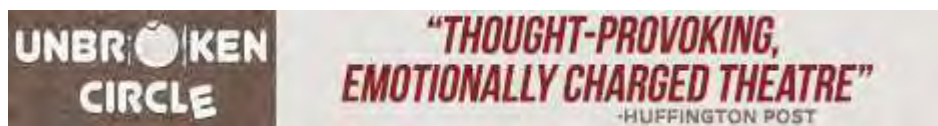
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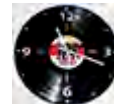


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Old Globe's *The Rainmaker*, Starring Tug Coker, Danielle Skraastad and Gbenga Akinragbe, Begins July 13

By *Carey Purcell*

13 Jul 2013



Danielle Skraastad and Gbenga Akinragbe
Photo by Jim Cox

The Old Globe's revival of *The Rainmaker* begins performances July 13.

N. Richard Nash's play officially opens July 18 and will run through Aug. 11.

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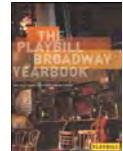


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Photo Flash: First Look at Danielle Skraastad, Gbenga Akinragbe and More in Old Globe's THE RAINMAKER

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Wednesday, July 17, 2013; 04:07 PM - by [BWW News Desk](#)

[The Old Globe](#) presents the revival of [N. Richard Nash](#)'s classic romantic comedy *The Rainmaker*.

Directed by [Maria Mileaf](#), *The Rainmaker* will run July 13 - August 11, 2013 on the Donald and [Darlene Shiley](#) Stage in the [Old Globe Theatre](#), part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center. Preview performances run July 13 - July 17. Opening night is Thursday, July 18 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](#), by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. BroadwayWorld has a first look at the production shots below!

[Danielle Skraastad](#) makes her Globe debut as Lizzie. [Gbenga Akinragbe](#) plays the mysterious Starbuck. The cast of *The Rainmaker* also features [Tug Coker](#) (File), Peter Douglas (Noah Curry), [Kyle Harris](#) (Jim Curry), [John Judd](#) (H. C. Curry) and [Herbert Siquenza](#) (Sheriff Thomas).

The creative team includes [Neil Patel](#) (Scenic Design), [Katherine Roth](#) (Costume Design), [Japhy Weideman](#) (Lighting Design), [Bart Fasbender](#) (Sound Design), Ryan Beattie Scrimger (Vocal and Dialect Coach), [Caparelliotis Casting](#) (Casting) and [Monica A. Cuoco](#) (Stage Manager).

The Rainmaker is supported in part through gifts from Production Sponsors Peter Cooper and Norman Blachford and California Bank & Trust. Additional support is provided by KPMG.

TICKETS to *The Rainmaker* 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 July 13 and continue through Aug. 11. Ticket prices start at \$29. **Performance times:** Previews: Saturday, July 13 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 29 years of age and under, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

Photo Credit: [Jim Cox](#)



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[Danielle Skraastad](#) as Lizzie Curry and [Tug Coker](#) as File i



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Peter Douglas as Noah Curry (standing), [John Judd](#) as H. C. Curry, [Danielle Skraastad](#) as Lizzie Curry, [Tug Coker](#) as File and [Kyle Harris](#) as Jim Curry



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Old Globe's *The Rainmaker*, Starring Tug Coker, Danielle Skraastad and Gbenga Akinragbe, Opens July 18

By [Carey Purcell](#)
18 Jul 2013



Danielle Skraastad and Gbenga Akinragbe
Photo by Jim Cox

The Old Globe's revival of *The Rainmaker* officially opens July 18 following previews that began July 13.

N. Richard Nash's play will continue through Aug. 11.

Directed by Maria Milea, the cast features **Danielle Skraastad** (*All My Sons*, *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*) as Lizzie; Gbenga Akinragbe (*The Oedipus Cycle*, *Henry V*) as Starbuck; **Tug Coker** (*Magic/Bird*) as File; Peter Douglas as Noah Curry; **Kyle Harris** as Jim Curry; John Judd as H. C. Curry; and Herbert Siguenza as Sheriff Thomas.

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On Saturday the gig is at the United Center in Chicago.

MICHAEL BUBLE performs four nights London's O2 arena in show running from Monday, July 8th through Saturday, July 13th.

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK perform Tuesday, July 9, at the Dome In Tacoma, WA. Friday's show is at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, IL. On Saturday they can be enjoyed at the Target Center in Minneapolis.

FINAL OVATION

CHARLOTTE BROSNAN daughter of actor Pierce Brosnan, 41, died from ovarian cancer last week in London, surrounded by her family. A mother of two, she was 41.

The Irish actor's wife, Cassandra Harris, died from the disease in 1991. Charlotte's grandmother, also died from ovarian cancer.

The actor issued the following statement: "On June 28 at 2 p.m. my darling daughter Charlotte Emily passed on to eternal life, having succumbed to ovarian cancer," Brosnan, 60, said in a statement. "She was surrounded by her husband Alex, children Isabella and Lucas and brothers Christopher and Sean. "Charlotte fought her cancer with grace and humility, courage and dignity. Our hearts are heavy with the loss of our beautiful dear girl," he said.

"We pray for her and that the cure for this wretched disease will be close at hand."

The London *Telegraph* reported that Brosnan was filming the spy thriller *November Man* in Eastern Europe when he received the news that she had taken a turn for the worse. He immediately rushed back to his daughter's bedside.

Charlotte and her brother Christopher were products of their mother's



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: sdprime
Publication Date: July 01, 2013
Page Number: 02
Circulation: 50,500
Size: 6 sq inch
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Saturday, July 13

“The Rainmaker”

A classic romantic comedy set against the sweeping landscape of the American West. On her family's drought-ridden ranch, Lizzie's hopes and dreams have run as dry as the barren fields. When the irresistible Starbuck arrives in town, selling the promise of rain, Lizzie must decide: is he a con man or does he hold the key to everything she desires? The Old Globe, Balboa Park. \$29 and up. (619) 234-5623, www.theoldglobe.

Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Jewish Journal
Publication Date: July 01, 2013
Page Number: 068,069
Circulation: 20,000
Size: 126 sq inch
Value: \$3,158.04

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

Summer on Stage

by eileen sondak • nsondak@gmail.com

The season is heating up on local stages, both indoors and under the stars. The Old Globe is in full swing, and the La Jolla Playhouse will unveil a new play directed by Des McAnuff. Moonlight is bringing "The Wizard of Oz" to life in Vista, San Diego Pops is playing up a storm at the Embarcadero, and Cygnet is reviving Stephen Sondheim's multi-award-winning "Company" in Old Town. Finally, Broadway/San Diego is gearing up to give audiences a reason to rejoice with "Sister Act" at the Civic Theatre. That's a little taste of the summer crop coming our way.

The Old Globe's Festival Stage is rockin' this summer. Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "The

Merchant of Venice" are alternating on the outdoor stage with Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" (a hilarious romp that turns Shakespeare's "Hamlet" upside down). The three shows will be performed in repertory until Sept. 29. Adrian Noble directed "Merchant" and "Rosencrantz," while Ian Talbot took on the delightful "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in his Globe debut.

The Globe's production of "The Rainmaker" will make its way to the Main Stage July 13. This classic romantic comedy (by N. Richard Nash, born Nussbaum) is about a family in the drought-ridden American West and the stranger who promises to bring on the rain. It

The Lamb's will continue its brilliant production of "Fiddler on the Roof" through July 14. This masterful musical, with its litany of unforgettable songs, vibrant dances and poignant tale of life in Czarist Russia, is a must-see for audiences of all ages.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" appears on the Old Globe's outdoor Festival Stage through Sept. 29.



PHOTO BY JIM COX

Client Name: The Old Globe
 Publication Name: San Diego Jewish Journal
 Publication Date: July 01, 2013
 Page Number: 068,069
 Circulation: 20,000
 Size: 126 sq inch
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will remain on stage through Aug. 11. The San Diego premiere of "Double Indemnity" will take to the White Stage July 27. The show, directed by John Gould Rubin, is about a small-time insurance agent and a femme fatale. Based on the film noir classic, "Double Indemnity" is slated to continue to thrill audiences in this intimate setting until Aug. 25.

The Summer Pops season of music under the stars continues July 4-6 with Bill Conti's "Star Spangled Pops." "Music of the Bee Gees" is next on the roster July 12-13, followed July 14 by "Pops Goes Classical, Passport to the World: A Night on the Blue Danube." "Distant Worlds: Music from Final Fantasy" is coming our way July 18, and "En Vogue" is set for July 19-20. Amy Grant performs July 26-27, and Nathan Pacheco's "Nessun Dorma to Hallelujah" concert is slated for July 28 to wrap up a busy and eclectic month for Summer Pops.

The La Jolla Playhouse recently unveiled "Tribes," directed by David Cromer. The Drama Desk Award-winning play deals with a deaf son of a family of intellectuals who finds a tribe of his own in the deaf community. You can check out this fascinating work until July 21.

The Playhouse will showcase a new play inspired by the film "Sideways" July 16. Local favorite Des McAnuff returns to direct this piece, which remains at the Playhouse through Aug. 18.

Cygnets Theatre will engage audiences with a production of Stephen Sondheim's "Company," a multi-Tony Award-winning musical, July 5-Aug. 18. The show explores a 35th birthday boy's views on love and marriage and features a large cast of local favorites, under the able direction of Sean Murray.

Broadway/San Diego is ready to import the Broadway show "Sister Act," a divine musical comedy with original music by Alan Menken. This lively show will take over the Civic Theatre July 30-Aug. 4. "Sister Act" makes merry with a wannabe diva who takes cover in a convent after she witnesses a crime.

The Lamb's Players' "MixTape," the long-running '80s musical, is back on the boards. The wildly popular show is ensconced at the Horton Grand in downtown San Diego once again, and it should stick around through the end of August.

The Lamb's will continue its brilliant production of "Fiddler on the Roof" at its Coronado home through July 14. This masterful musical, with its litany of unforgettable songs, vibrant dances and poignant tale of life in Czarist Russia, is a must-see for audiences of all ages.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LAMONT

Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" will play at the Old Globe in repertory with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" all summer long.

North Coast Repertory Theatre is planning "Perfect Wedding," a side-splitting comedy directed by Matthew Wiener. The show (a mix of mistaken identity, wordplay and physical comedy) will keep audiences laughing at the troupe's Solana Beach home July 10-Aug. 4.

Moonlight's production of "South Pacific," a wonderful vintage Rodgers and Hammerstein musical that abounds with unforgettable songs, will finish its run at the Moonlight Bowl July 13. Coming up next in Moonlight's 33rd summer season is "The Wizard of Oz," a show that young and old will enjoy together. Visit the land of Oz July 24-Aug. 10.

The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center is showcasing the IMAX film "Rocky Mountain Express," a dizzying ride that brings to life the age of steam engine locomotives. The film is set to the rhythm of a live steam locomotive and has some spectacular visual effects. The Fleet's "Tinkering Studio," a hands-on workshop, will stay on permanently. "Flight of the Butterflies" is here for an open-ended stay at the Dome Theatre. "Nano," "Block Busters" and "Origins in Space" are among the other ongoing offerings at the museum.

The San Diego Museum of Art just launched a comprehensive exhibition of Arnold Newman's photography. This first retrospective since his death in 2006 will be on display through Sept. 8. The newly renovated Asian galleries will feature

"Art of East Asia," a reinstallation of Asian art from the permanent collection.

The Oceanside Museum is exhibiting "Intersections: Charles Arnoldi," a sampling of the artist's seminal work, through Aug. 25. "Tony DeLap: Selections from 50 Years," is slated to remain on view through Oct. 6. "Volcanoes and Full Moons: Ernest Silva," an exhibition of work by the celebrated artist, will stick around through Sept. 15, as will "Looking for Things: Jay Johnson," a diverse and humorous show.

The Museum of Man is offering "Our Journeys Through Life," an exploration of celebrations and rituals, through Dec. 8. "From the Vault: Rare Artifacts with Fascinating Stories" (the first exhibition from the museum's own collection in a long time) is also on view throughout the year.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps will sponsor "Shark Conservation: Safeguarding the Future of the Ocean" July 8. Look for "Sharks Celebration" to take place July 20 at the Birch.

Mingei Museum is featuring "Allied Craftsmen Today," a juried show highlighting the work of 37 artists. The exhibition, representing a rich diversity of work, will remain at the Balboa Park museum through early January.

The Air and Space Museum is featuring a "Ripley's Believe It or Not" exhibition for the first time in 80 years. This fascinating, one-of-a-kind show will remain until the end of this year. ✕

Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Jewish Journal
Publication Date: August 01, 2013
Page Number: 080,081
Circulation: 20,000
Size: 142 sq inch
Value: \$3,549.88



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WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

Summer Entertainment Sizzles

by eileen sondak • nsondak@gmail.com

The summer season is still sizzling for entertainment seekers. The Old Globe is going strong on all three stages, the Lamb's is giving the vintage Hitchcock film, "The 39 Steps," a brand new twist in its Coronado home, Summer Pops is playing up a storm under the stars at the Embarcadero, and you'll find something to see in just about every local venue this month.

The Old Globe's Festival Stage has three outstanding offerings this summer. Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Merchant of Venice" are alternating on the outdoor stage with Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" (a hilarious romp that turns Shakespeare's "Hamlet" upside down). The three shows

will be performed in rotating repertory until Sept. 29.

Adrian Noble directed "Merchant..." and "Rosencrantz...", while Ian Talbot took on "Midsummer Night's Dream" in his Globe debut, and made it a delightful alfresco experience for audiences of all ages. Credit Noble for his insightful and sensitive staging of "Merchant..."—a play that often elicits cringes for the anti-Semitic overtones in the Bard's work. Noble's direction of Stoppard's absurdist comedy is splendid as well, and this long-overdue production is a fine addition to the Globe's summer slate.

As usual, the cast for the Festival Stage threesome draws from some of the Globe's favorite thespians,

Burt Bacharach performs as part of the Summer Pops season Aug. 4.

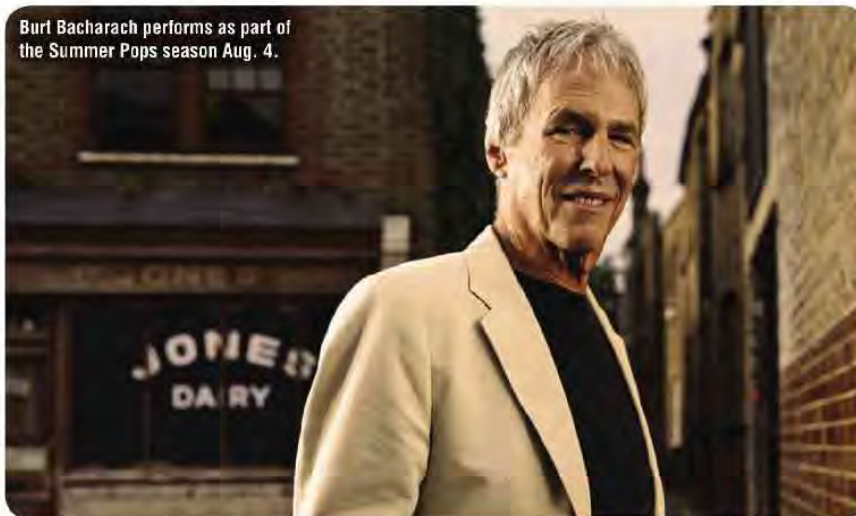


PHOTO COURTESY: SUMMER POPS

The La Jolla Playhouse is staging a new play inspired by the film, "Sideways" through Aug. 26 at the Potiker Theatre.

The above material first appeared in the San Diego Jewish Journal on the above date.
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Client Name: The Old Globe
 Publication Name: San Diego Jewish Journal
 Publication Date: August 01, 2013
 Page Number: 080,081
 Circulation: 20,000
 Size: 142 sq inch
 Value: \$3,549.88



Page 2 of 2

including Jay Whittaker, Miles Anderson, and Ryman Sneed. They are joined by a few talented newcomers, such as Adam Gerber and John Lavelle. See them portray different roles in each play to excellent effect.

The Globe's production of "The Rainmaker" inhabits the Main Stage. This classic romantic comedy (by N. Richard Nash, born Nussbaum) is about a family in the drought-ridden American West and the stranger who promises to bring on the rain. It will remain on stage through Aug. 11. The San Diego premiere of "Double Indemnity" is thrilling audiences on the adjacent White stage. The show—directed by John Gould Rubin—is about a small time insurance agent and a femme fatale. Based on the film noir classic, "Double Indemnity" is slated to continue in this intimate setting until Aug. 25.

The Summer Pops season of music under the stars continues on Aug. 2-3 with "Broadway Tonight"—featuring music from "Les Miserables" and other hits from the Great White Way. "Burt Bacharach: I Say a Little Prayer" follows on Aug. 4. "Michael Bolton: Time, Love, and Tenderness" will entertain Aug. 9-10, while "Cirque Musica" heads this way Aug. 16-17.

"Pixar in Concert" is on tap Aug. 18, and "Ozomatli: Salsa, Samba, Dancehall, and Funk" mixes it up Aug. 22. If you're a fan of '80s music, "Don't Stop Believin'" with Debbie Gibson and Sam Harris, is your cup of tea. See it Aug. 23-24, and to bring the summer to a delightful conclusion, "1812 Tchaikovsky Spectacular" will light up the Embarcadero Aug. 30-Sept. 1.

The La Jolla Playhouse is staging a new play inspired by the film, "Sideways" through Aug. 26 at the Potiker Theatre. Local favorite Des McAnuff returned to direct this piece about two buddies (a thwarted writer and a has-been TV actor) and their rocky road trip through wine country. The film version earned five Oscar nominations. Second City returns to the Playhouse's Mandell Weiss Forum on Aug. 6. The troupe will deliver its unique brand of satirical humor through Sept. 1.

Cygnnet Theatre is engaging audiences with a production of Stephen Sondheim's "Company," a multi-Tony Award-winning musical. The clever show—slated to remain at the troupe's Old Town Theater through Aug. 18—explores a 35th birthday-boy's views on love and marriage, and features a large cast of local favorites, under the able direction of Sean Murray.

"You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!"—a comedy



PHOTO BY JIM COX

Danielle Skraastad appears as Lizzie Curry and Gbenga Akinagbe as Bill Starbuck in N. Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker," through Aug. 11 at The Old Globe.

about relationships, love, and marriage—will continue to keep audiences in stitches at the Lyceum Theatre through Aug. 18.

The Lamb's is conjuring up a sly evocation of the Hitchcock classic, "The 39 Steps." This funny take on the vintage movie will set up shop at the Lamb's Coronado home Aug. 9 through Sept. 22. "MixTape," the long-running '80s musical, is back on the boards. The wildly popular show is ensconced at the Horton Grand in downtown San Diego once again—and it should stick around at least through the end of the month.

North Coast Repertory Theatre is presenting "Perfect Wedding," a sidesplitting comedy directed by Matthew Wiener. The show (a mix of mistaken identity, wordplay, and physical comedy) will amuse audiences at the troupe's Solana Beach home until Aug. 4. Supporters of NCR will gather on Aug. 17 for a benefit.

Moonlight's production of "The Wizard of Oz" will continue its stay at the Moonlight Bowl through Aug. 10. Visit the land of Oz with the whole family before it moves on.

Junior Theater is presenting "Guys and Dolls" at its Casa del Prado Theater in Balboa Park through Aug. 11. This classic musical is a winner with everyone older than 10 years old—and a special treat for fans of the colorful Damon Runyon characters on which the show was based.

The San Diego Natural History Museum unveiled "Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age" recently. The exhibition recreates ancient environments and gives us an up close look at these amazing creatures. The museum is featuring "Dino Jaws," an exotic U.S. premiere that takes us into the world of dinosaurs, until Sept. 12. "Fossil Mysteries," "Skulls," and "Water: A California Story" are on permanent exhibition.

The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center is bringing back some fan-favorite films this month, including "Mysteries of Egypt," "Everest," and "Grand Canyon Adventure." The museum is also showcasing "Rocky Mountain Express," a dizzying ride that brings to life the age of steam. The film is set to the rhythms of a live steam locomotive, and has some spectacular visual effects. The Fleet's "Tinkering Studio"—a hands-on workshop—will stay on permanently. "Flight of the Butterflies" is here for an open-ended stay in the Dome Theater. "Nano," "Block Busters," and "Origins in Space" are among the other ongoing offerings at the museum.

The San Diego Museum of Art just launched a comprehensive exhibition of Arnold Newman's photography. This first retrospective since his death in 2006 will be on display through Sept. 8. ☼

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Nothing beats La Jolla in the summer

Business

US budget surplus highest in five years in

BBC News - 3 hours ago

The US government reported a budget surplus of \$116.5bn (£77.02bn) in June, the most in five years. The improving US economy meant that tax receipts were higher than expected. Also, government spend

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BBC News

La Jolla in San Diego County

By Larry Taylor/Garden Grove Journal

Summer is when you really want to be in beautiful La Jolla. This beach village, just north of San Diego, about 90 minutes south of Orange County, is a popular vacation spot for folks from all over the world – just listen and you hear conversations in varieties of languages.

There are scenic coves, great beaches, and a picturesque downtown and abundant recreational attractions. What's more, first class cultural events are scheduled, including SummerFest, an international chamber music festival, plays at celebrated theaters – La Jolla Playhouse and in nearby downtown San Diego famous Balboa Park.

By July weather is warm, nights balmy – just the way you want it at the beach. The ocean warms up around to about 70 degrees, inviting all to jump in. For years my wife and I have made an annual La Jolla trip, usually staying at La Jolla Cove Suites.

When there, whether in the main hotel building or in one of their cottages, the rooms are attractive and comfortable. Considering the prime location, the rates are reasonable, starting at around \$165 for doubles, weekdays per night. In addition, we start the day taking advantage of the generous complimentary continental breakfast served on the rooftop restaurant.

And, what a view from your balcony. Facing the ocean with a picture postcard scene of La Jolla Cove just below. This is one of the top diving and snorkeling spots on the West Coast.

During the day we spend time with beach activities, and but most nights we like take in a play or concert.

Considered by many as one of the top summer music festivals in the nation, Director Cho-Liang Lin has decided to mix the SummerFest program for the three-week chamber music event, which starts Aug 5.

From the usual Sherwood Auditorium venue, this year Lin is moving some concerts to nearby UC San Diego's Loft. The first is Aug, 9 and will be a unique contemporary program hosted by cellist Fred Sherry. With two performances at "The Loft," works by Bartók, Ives, Debussy, Villa-Lobos, Carter, Charles Wuorinen and Bartók will be seen and heard close up. "It's going to be very casual, with no distance between the musicians and the audience," Lin said. "...like a jazz concert or a club."

- **GGJ Community Calendar**

There are no events.

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- **Local Weather**

There are many highlights in a program that is largely sticking with the tried and true, with some surprises mixed in.

One of those surprises is the SummerFest debut of pianist Daniil Trifonov. The young Russian pianist was a third-prize winner in the 2010 Chopin Competition.

The SummerFest series includes 60 other artists, eight ensembles and three composers, familiar faces (pianist Joseph Kalichstein and cellist Gary Hoffman), highly regarded locals (clarinetist Sheryl Renk and Benjamin Jaber, French horn), and newcomers (conductor James Conlon and Trifonov). Programs run through Aug. 16 with three world premieres.

Meanwhile, this year's Shakespeare Festival at Balboa Park is up and running. On the large outdoor Festival Stage three productions will be running in repertory: "Midsummer's Night Dream," "The Merchant of Venice" and Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," a contemporary comedy based on Hamlet's hapless school friends.

The Globe's adjoining Conrad Presby Theater Center, is featuring the thirties play "The Rainmaker," by N. Richard Nash and directed by Maria Mileaf, and also the premiere of the popular noir film "Double Indemnity," from the James Cain novel, directed by Des MaAnuff.

"The Rainmaker" is a classic romantic comedy set against the sweeping landscape of the American Midwest, while "Indemnity" promises to keep the audience on the edge of their seats, as they say.

At the La Jolla Playhouse, "Sideways" is being given its world's premiere as a stage play. Rex Pickett, author of the novel from which the Academy Award-winning film was made, and Playhouse Director Emeritus McAnuff have put it together.

Scheduled, as well, from Chicago's famed comedy troupe, the Second City, brings in "The Good, The Bad, and The I-5" is opening Aug. 6. This a spoof of the Southern California way of life

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- **Coast Professional Offices**

If you're a shopper, La Jolla is paradise exploring the shops in the downtown area. And there are many fine restaurants. Everything you want in a beach resort.

For information: SummerFest, (858) 459-3728, <http://www.ljms.org/>; Globe Theater, (619) 23-GLOBE, www.theoldglobe.org; LaJolla Playhouse, (858) 550-1010, www.lajollaplayhouse.com. La Jolla Cove suites offers luxury accommodations. For information, call (888) LA JOLLA or check the website www.lajollacove.com.

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diego-food-entrepreneurs-pitch-their-recipes-for-success/) and hoped for some investment at an event last week.

- Baghdad-born artist Doris Bittar tells the U-T (<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/jul/10/doris-bittar-protea-gallery/>) her North Park gallery attracts quite a crowd: “labor activists, Muslims, Arabs, Iranians, artists, leftists, peace activists, civil rights people, professors.”

- San Diego-bred “singer, rapper and yoga instructor” Gonjasufi makes an appearance (<http://passionweiss.com/2013/07/09/gonjasufi-san-diego-hip-hop-dirty-beats/#sthash.onNYoFHs.dpuf>) on Jay-Z’s latest album. Writing for the online magazine The Passion of the Weiss, former CityBeat music editor Peter Holslin appraises the Gonjasufi addition. He brings an element of a San Diego “dirty” aesthetic, Holslin writes — in the lineage of:

“a tight-knit community of San Diego MCs and beatmakers [who] got down in the muck to create a dark, wild, sometimes-minimalist, always-gnarly aesthetic all their own.”

- The wine specialist whom many credit with a renaissance of the mule cocktail in San Diego (via her work at Starlite in Mission Hills) left her mark on the new cocktail list (<http://www.sandiegomagazine.com/Blogs/SD-Food-News/Summer-2013/Counterpoint-Cocktails/>) at Counterpoint, a neighborhood spot in Golden Hill. (San Diego Magazine)

- Mira Mesa teen Iman Usman grew up Muslim and she’s a lesbian. “There’s this bright light on marriage and things like that,” she told KPBS (<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2013/jul/16/being-gay-and-muslim-living-between-worlds/>). “But there’s a shadow where I am.”

- A play inspired by a real-life rainmaker (<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/jul/09/old-globe-theatre-rainmaker-preview/>) (whose skills were credited for a dousing San Diego got a century ago) is onstage now at The Old Globe. (U-T)

- Debi Beard sells her own creations and vintage goods out of a historic cottage (<http://www.sdcitybeat.com/sandiego/article-11977-debi-beards-a-redesign-star.html>) in the Cedros Design District in Solana Beach. (CityBeat)



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Where Magazine
Publication Date: June 01, 2013
Page Number: 062,064
Circulation: 28,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$57.24



Theater

THE RAINMAKER July 13-Aug. 11. A classic romantic comedy set against the sweeping landscape of the American West. On her family's drought-ridden ranch, Lizzie's hopes and dreams have run dry. When the irresistible Starbuck arrives in town, selling the promise of rain, Lizzie must decide: is he a con-man, or does he hold the key to everything she desires? **Shiley Stage at the Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, 619.234.5623, Map Q17**

Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Where Magazine
Publication Date: June 01, 2013
Page Number: 038,039,040
Circulation: 28,000
Size: 120 sq inch
Value: \$3,168.90

EXPLORING

Balboa Park

ART, MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE BLOOM YEAR-ROUND.



➔ Spanning 1,200 acres of lush, beautifully landscaped terrain, Balboa Park is known as San Diego's "crown jewel," offering a variety of both cultural and outdoor recreation options for kids and adults alike, not to mention a verdant respite from the bustle of the city's increasingly metropolitan pace.

Nestled between palm trees and botanical gardens, ornate Spanish Colonial buildings house many of the park's museums and art exhibits. Several of the buildings were constructed as part of two world fairs: the Panama-California Exposition in 1915-16, and the California-Pacific International Exposition in 1935-36.

It can take more than one day to see and enjoy each museum, garden and attraction. The **Visitors Center** (619.239.0512) in the House of Hospitality offers a Passport to Balboa Park, allowing admission to any of the park's museums for one week. (Keep in mind some museums are closed on Mondays.) Deluxe packages include passes to the neighboring **San Diego Zoo**. Or go high-tech and let the park's iPhone app be your guide.

Arts & Culture

Performing arts abound in the park. The **Old Globe Theatre** routinely presents superior theatrical talent in world-renowned productions; summer features include *Double Indemnity* (July 27-Aug. 25), *The Rainmaker* (July 13-Aug. 11) and its annual Summer Shakespeare Festival (June 2-Sept. 29). See p. 62-65 for more theater listings.

Elsewhere in the park, the **Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre** presents whimsical puppet shows, while **Spreckels Organ Pavilion** houses one of the world's largest

outdoor pipe organs, with some 4,500 pipes. Free concerts are offered Sundays at 2 p.m.

The park is also home to groups celebrating culture. The **House of Pacific Relations International Cottages** promotes the heritage of countries around the world by hosting open houses and weekend festivals. Neighboring **WorldBeat Center** uses art, music, dance and education to celebrate African and indigenous cultures, while **Centro Cultural de la Raza** is a multidisciplinary center dedicated to the preservation of Chicano/Latino culture.

The park has a vast array of institutions celebrating the visual arts, past and present. Known for its presentation of eclectic traveling exhibits, the **San Diego Museum of Art** also has a trove of Renaissance and Baroque works, plus a large Asian collection. The world-class **Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA)** showcases compelling photography and also presents films in its state-of-the-art theater. Don't miss the 30x: *Three Decades* exhibit, celebrating MOPA's 30th anniversary (through Oct. 13)

The **Mingei International Museum** is dedicated to folk art, craft and design from around the world, while the **Timken Museum of Art** is home to the Putnam Foundation's renowned collection of European and Byzantine art, including exquisite Russian religious paintings.

The San Diego Art Institute's **Museum of the Living Artist** presents exhibitions by contemporary local artists every four to six weeks, and the historic **Spanish Village Art Center** is a collection of 37 studios representing more than 200 artists working in media ranging from sculpture to blown glass; the charming courtyard setting is meant to evoke an Old World town square.

Science & History

Balboa Park's many non-visual-art museums are a huge draw for children, but most distinguish themselves by crafting exhibitions that also appeal to adult sensibilities.

The **San Diego Air and Space Museum** salutes aviation with 68 original, reproduction and model airplanes and spacecraft. The **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center** has interactive science exhibitions and an IMAX Dome theater. The country's largest multi-sports museum, the **San Diego Hall of Champions** has interactive displays inviting sports fans to test their athletic and broadcasting skills. From antiques to hot rods, the **San Diego Automotive Museum's** collection illustrates the evolution of the automobile.

The vast **San Diego Natural History Museum's** life-sized T-Rex skeleton, fossil exhibits and 3-D theater let visitors explore the natural world via exciting interactive and educational media.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: July 04, 2013
Page Number: 025
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$169.94



THEATER LISTINGS

"The Rainmaker": July 13-Aug. 1.
The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way,
San Diego. \$29. (619) 231-1941.
TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Downtown News
Publication Date: July 01, 2013
Page Number: 017
Circulation: 22,000
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$62.97



WEDNESDAY - JULY 24

The Rainmaker: A classic romantic comedy by N. Richard Nash. Performance includes post-show forum Q&A with cast. Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, Old Globe Theatre 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$29, call 619-23-GLOBE or visit TheOldGlobe.org.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Downtown News
Publication Date: July 01, 2013
Page Number: 016
Circulation: 22,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$52.47



SATURDAY - JULY 13

The Rainmaker: A classic romantic comedy by N. Richard Nash. Previews start tonight Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, Old Globe Theatre 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. 8 p.m. Tickets call 619-23-GLOBE or visit TheOldGlobe.org.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Downtown News
Publication Date: July 01, 2013
Page Number: 017
Circulation: 22,000
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$59.47



THURSDAY - JULY 18

The Rainmaker: A classic romantic comedy by N. Richard Nash. Opening night through Aug. 11. Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, Old Globe Theatre 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$29, call 619-23-GLOBE or visit TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: July 11, 2013
Page Number: 030
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 1 sq inch
Value: \$56.64



Running

"The Rainmaker": July 13-Aug. 11.
The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way,
San Diego. \$29. TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego City Beat
Publication Date: July 10, 2013
Page Number: 17
Circulation: 50,000
Size: 1 sq inch
Value: \$21.31



OPENING

The Rainmaker: A conman arrives at a Depression-era ranch where the cattle are dying and the farmer's daughter's hopes of finding a husband are fading. Opens July 13 at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. oldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: July 18, 2013
Page Number: 042
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 1 sq inch
Value: \$70.81



Running

"The Rainmaker": Through July 31. The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29. (619) 231-1941, TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Reader
Publication Date: July 18, 2013
Page Number: 084,085
Circulation: 175,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$126.25



THEATER LISTINGS

The Rainmaker

The Old Globe Theatre stages N. Richard Nash's romantic comedy about a man who can bring rain to a barren region. Or is he a con? Maria Milcاف directs.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619 234-5623.

8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS. THROUGH AUGUST 11.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
Publication Date: July 25, 2013
Page Number: 028
Circulation: 164,339
Size: 4 sq inch
Value: \$368.22



THEATER LISTINGS

Critic's Choice

"The Rainmaker": Through Aug. 11.
N. Richard Nash's 1954 play about a

drought-stricken town, a lonely farm gal and a visiting flimflam man can be folksy to a fault, and its ideas of female fulfillment risk leaving a modern playgoer feeling wilted. And yet director Maria Mileaf's Old Globe production turns out to be a seriously charming show — one shot through with humor and humanity, and acted with skill and subtlety. (Hebert) The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$93. (619) 231-1941, TheOldGlobe.org

Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: July 25, 2013
Page Number: 028,030
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$226.59



Critic's Choice

"The Rainmaker": Through Aug. 11.
N. Richard Nash's 1954 play about a
drought-stricken town, a lonely farm
gal and a visiting flimflam man can be

folksy to a fault, and its ideas of female
fulfillment risk leaving a modern play-
goer feeling wilted. And yet director
Maria Mileaf's *Old Globe* production
turns out to be a seriously charming
show — one shot through with humor
and humanity, and acted with skill and
subtlety. (Hebert) *The Old Globe*, 1363
Old Globe Way, San Diego, \$29-\$93,
(619) 231-1941, TheOldGlobe.org

Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Reader
Publication Date: July 25, 2013
Page Number: 084,085
Circulation: 175,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$126.25



THEATER LISTINGS

The Rainmaker

The Old Globe Theatre stages N. Richard Nash's romantic comedy about a man who can bring rain to a barren region. Or is he a con? Maria Milcraf directs.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.

8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM &, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM &, 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH AUGUST 11.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: August 01, 2013
Page Number: 028,029
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$269.08



Critic's Choice

"The Rainmaker": Through Aug. 11.
N. Richard Nash's 1954 play about a drought-stricken town, a lonely farm gal and a visiting flimflam man can be folksy to a fault, and its ideas of female fulfillment risk leaving a modern playgoer feeling wilted. And yet director Maria Mileaf's Old Globe production turns out to be a seriously charming show — one shot through with humor and humanity, and acted with skill and

SEE THEATER • PAGE 29

FROM PAGE 28

subtlety. (Hebert) The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$93. (619) 231-1941, TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
Publication Date: August 01, 2013
Page Number: 025
Circulation: 164,339
Size: 4 sq inch
Value: \$354.05



THEATER LISTINGS

Critic's Choice

"The Rainmaker": Through Aug. 11.
N. Richard Nash's 1954 play about a drought-stricken town, a lonely farm gal and a visiting flimflam man can be folksy to a fault, and its ideas of female fulfillment risk leaving a modern playgoer feeling wilted. And yet director Maria Mileaf's Old Globe production turns out to be a seriously charming show — one shot through with humor and humanity, and acted with skill and subtlety. (Hebert) The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$93. (619) 231-1941, TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Reader
Publication Date: August 01, 2013
Page Number: 081,082
Circulation: 175,000
Size: 5 sq inch
Value: \$276.18



THEATER LISTINGS

The Rainmaker

N. Richard Nash's pulycultural comedy has a woman reinventing herself during the Depression on the far side of nowhere. And it premiered during the sexism-clogged McCarthy Era. So, kudos. But this is one slight script! Nash's characters have no psychological depth. They change because it's that time in the story. The exception is Lizzie (a fine performance by Danielle Skrassad), who grows from a self-imposed Ugly Duckling to a recognition of her gifts. Most of the males are one-note and performed that way. Best of show: Neil Patel's minimalist set, lit by Japhy Weidman's roaring reds and burnt oranges, reconfigures in seconds like a Rubik's Cube. The rest is sitcom.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH AUGUST 11.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Navy Dispatch
Publication Date: August 01, 2013
Page Number: 023
Circulation: 40,000
Size: 14 sq inch
Value: \$302.85



Danielle Skraastad as Lizzie Curry and Gbenga Akinnagbe as Bill Starbuck in N. Richard Nash's The Rainmaker, directed by Maria Mileaf, July 13 - Aug. 11, 2013 at The Old Globe. Photo by Jim Cox.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: August 08, 2013
Page Number: 024
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$240.76



Critic's Choice

"The Rainmaker": Ending Aug. 11.
N. Richard Nash's 1954 play about a drought-stricken town, a lonely farm gal and a visiting flimflam man can be folksy to a fault, and its ideas of female fulfillment risk leaving a modern playgoer feeling wilted. And yet director Maria Mileaf's Old Globe production turns out to be a seriously charming show — one shot through with humor and humanity, and acted with skill and subtlety. (Hebert) The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$93. (619) 234-5623. TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
Publication Date: August 08, 2013
Page Number: 015
Circulation: 164,339
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$155.78



Critic's Choice

"The Rainmaker": Ending Aug. 11.
Director Maria Mileaf's The Old Globe production turns out to be a seriously charming show — one shot through with humor and humanity, and acted with skill and subtlety. (Hebert) The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$93. (619) 234-5623, TheOldGlobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Yu Yu
Publication Date: July 16, 2013
Page Number: 043
Circulation: 10,150
Size: 17 sq inch
Value: \$318.20



The Rainmaker

The Rainmaker レインメーカー

雨乞い男は詐欺師それとも救世主？

③&④ 大恐慌時代。早稲^{かんはつ}に見舞われた西部の田舎町にオールドミスのリジーが帰省する。彼女は未来の夫を探す旅に出ていたが、期待は裏切られ、父と2人の兄弟が暮らす故郷で家族経営の牧場を再建する決意を固めていた。酷暑の中、牧場では家畜が死に絶えていく。一方で、家族はリジーの結婚を心配し始めている。彼女の前に現れたスターバックは\$100と引き換えに雨を降らせると言うが…。劇作家 N・リチャード・ナッシュによる1954年初演作品。

① THE GLOBE THEATRES (Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, S.D. / ☎619-239-2255 (T) / 8/11 (日) まで / \$29 ~ \$93 / www.oldglobe.org