

GLOBE THEATRE
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NEWSLETTER: March 2008

Welcome to all Globe members and other friends (and yes, in case you are wondering, this *is* the first Newsletter for 2008).

We had a shaky start to the year when our planned first production, *The Killing of Sister George*, had to be cancelled because of unexpected casting problems. We had already promised an 'outside' Fringe production use of the theatre in February/March (See below for details of this exciting production) and thus have compressed our 2008 season of plays into the time between May and December. Since we will also be enabling the Carol Kruger company to stage their children's shows during some of the school holidays we will in fact be even busier than ever during 2008 – all of which is good for us and, we hope, for you.

GLOBE PRODUCTIONS 2008

May 29 – June 7

Proof by David Auburn. To be directed by Andrew Morrison

Proof, which was first staged in 2001, is the powerful and compelling story of a young woman haunted by her father's legacy of genius, and madness. Catherine has spent years caring for her father, a celebrated mathematical genius whose life and career are cut short by mental illness. She struggles with the mathematical talent she has inherited from her father, as well as the possibility that she may be prone to his mental instability. The multiplicity of *Proof* is what makes the play so universally appealing. It's necessarily multi-layered because it deals fundamentally with what we choose to believe about ourselves and others, and what "proof" we have or feel we need in order to do so.

June 26-July 6

Old Times by Harold Pinter. To be directed by Lisa Warrington

Pinter's play was first produced in London in 1971 and has been performed many times and in many countries since. Indeed, many of Pinter's plays are being staged around the world at the present time as a new generation of theatregoers encounters the intriguing complexities of his characters and the lives they live (or may not have lived) in his many works. *Old Times* is one such play that lingers in the memory long after the performance has ended. The three characters, two women, Kate and Anna, and one man, Deeley, meet for dinner at the home of Kate and Deeley. Anna is (may be?) an old friend of Kate and the evening is spent reminiscing about the shared pasts of Kate and Anna, Kate and Deeley. At least, that is what the evening appears to be. The reality is darker, as is always the case with Pinter, a struggle for sexual dominance, for power, fought out via the sharing of memories that may or may not be true. As Anna says at one point, "There are some things one remembers even though they never happened. There are things I remember that may never have happened but as I recall them they take place."

August 14- 23

The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare. To be directed by Neal Barber

It proved impossible to write a short synopsis of this play for the benefit of those (most of us?) who have neither read nor seen the original. Suffice it to say then that this will be a marvellous opportunity for us all to put that omission to rights as we revel in this tale of love, jealousy and hate, of mistaken assumptions that result in abandonment, exile and untimely death, of the "exit, pursued by a bear" death of one of the characters and the miraculous return to life of another; and, of course, in the end a resolution that sees that 'all's well that ends well,' despite the years of misery that have gone before!

October 3-12

Palliative Care by Emily Duncan. To be directed by Louise Petherbridge

The Globe is delighted to have the opportunity to stage the premiere production of Emily Duncan's latest play, which is set in Central Otago in the mid 1990s. Ron Pederson is a World War II veteran who has lost his wife and is estranged from his adult daughter. He has an unconventional relationship with his nurse who despite his quarrelsome temperament strives to fulfil his needs and wants. However, gradually the threads of his life become rebound but he is left to question whether it is strong enough to hold in the face of tragedy.

December 4-13

Summer of the Seventeenth Doll by Ray Lawler. To be directed by Brian Beresford

This classic of the Australian theatre was written and set in 1950s Australia, in a slightly down at heel Melbourne suburb where four women wait for the annual return from the sugar cane fields of two men, Roo and Barney, for the five month summer lay-off period. For 16 years previously the two men have returned to the two same women, bringing them presents (including the 'dolls' of the title) together with expectations of carefree, commitment free fun times. This year, however, things are different. For a start, one of the two women has left, has moved on into marriage with another, and her place has been taken by a new woman of quite different temperament and character. By turns sweet, sad, funny, irritating and moving, this play which marked the start of Australian theatre proper has retained its place in current theatre play-lists for the quality of its characters and the universality of its depicted experiences.

OTHER PRODUCTIONS AT THE GLOBE in 2008

March 28-30; April 2-5 A Fringe production...

The Last Antigone by Tee O'Neill. Directed by Wayne Petcher

This will be the New Zealand premiere of the play by award-winning playwright, Tee O'Neill and brings the ethical dilemmas of the ancient Greeks into our hometown of Dunedin where New Zealand's royal family are in crisis. After years of prosperity under the rule of King Oedipus, Dunedin has been plunged into economic ruin, which has been worsened, by scandals and feuds within the royal family. Princess Antigone goes on the road with her disgraced father and begins to learn of life outside the city walls. Can her youth and newfound experiences free her city from the curse that her father thought he had smashed forever? Are we, however, being led by an unreliable narrator? Are love, loyalty and free will absolutes – or negotiable? (Yes, the playwright does acknowledge and pay homage to her inspiration sources, the several classic Greek plays set in the city of Thebes which deal with the destruction of the royal house of Labdacus, notably Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus* and *Antigone*.)

Please note: This is NOT a Globe production but you will be able to obtain your usual membership concession ticket price if you show your current Globe membership card. Tickets cannot be booked via the Globe phone or website but must be bought at the Regent Theatre or at the Globe door.

CAROL KRUGER PRODUCTIONS

April 28-May 3

Peter Pan

June 9-14

The World of Ann Frank Remembered

July 14-19

Beauty and the Beast

October (dates to be confirmed)

Rapunzel