

YES, WE LIKED IT

The opening gala blends the New Old Globe with the past, present and future

So, how did it look, the New Old Globe?

Fine. In fact, splendid.

It was similar to seeing an old acquaintance with whom you'd somehow lost touch. Had it really been four years since we last visited?

Yes.

On March 8, 1978, the Old Globe Theatre was torched. No suspects.

The reopening, however, was a triumph. The gala was a smash: first rate, professional.

Through the dedication of a stalwart cadre of supporters, the flame-gutted Old Globe Theatre celebrated its rebuilding and reopening with a long-to-be-remembered first-night gala. The social event of the season occurred in Balboa Park on a brisk, clear Saturday evening in early January and was complete with fireworks, state-of-the-art, sky-sweeping searchlights and a full moon.

Local and national honored guests, Old Globe management, talent and financial backers, volunteers and a few imported celebrities all were combined at an event that could give even the most cynical San Diegan a shot of civic and cultural pride. The \$200-a-person gala, entitled Year of Celebration, was a benefit for the theatre's scholarship fund, and was measured in several entertaining segments.

To begin, there were an open bar and hot hors d'oeuvres buffet, slightly resembling the forest of Arden, set up outside the entrance to the theatre. The cocktails spoke for themselves. However, the pre-play show-stopper was the appetizers, which included mussels with sweet herbs, liver pâté, English cheeses with water biscuits, smoked fish, potted shrimp and whole roast pig served, by a Carriage Trade Caterers chef, on black bread with English mustard.

The play itself, *As You Like It*, directed by Craig Noel, executive producer, was followed by an astounding fireworks display

(by Astro Pyrotechnics), which caught the fur-bedecked and black-tied audience by surprise.

The rockets' red glare kept them stunned in their Guccis; dinner and dancing immediately followed the bombs bursting in air and proved that night our Old Globe was still there. Yes, the festivities were actually fun. So many obligatory galas take on a somber sameness. That was not the case this night.

It quickly became evident that if this evening reflected the current thinking of the Old Globe family, then indeed, they have their proverbial act together.

The spectacular evening blended more than 425 guests, including craftsmen, business leaders, the press, government, artists and cultural and social leaders, during a comfortable and efficiently paced evening.

The gala was co-chaired by Home Federal Savings and Loan Association President Robert Adelizzi and his wife, Tommi. (Home Federal underwrote many of the festivities, including the dinner).

Unequivocally, the star of the night was the New Old Globe Theatre in the Simon Edison Centre for the Performing Arts. Technically, the stage is the most up-to-



A grand moment. Old Globe executive producer Craig Noel (right) honored Globe board member Lowell Davies for 43 years of friendship and dedication to the theatre.

CHRIS KRAUL