

NEWS RELEASE

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ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY KEEPS THE TRADITION ALIVE WITH BELOVED MUSICAL *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*

New production of the treasured musical highlights 50th Anniversary Season

The beloved musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, called “one of the greatest musicals in history” by the New York Daily News and “Indestructible” by The New Yorker magazine, brings a richly vibrant close to 2016 and a celebratory opening to 2017 in Arizona Theatre Company’s epic production as part of ATC’s 50th anniversary season.

Directed by ATC Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein, the Arizona Theatre Company production plays Dec. 3-31 at the Temple of Music and Art, 333 S. Scott Ave. in Tucson and Jan. 6-29 at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe in Phoenix. The 2016-17 season is sponsored by I. Michael and Beth Kasser. Shirley Estes is the Tucson Production Sponsor. Phoenix Production Sponsors are Joanie Flatt & Michael Flatt and The Shapiro Family Philanthropic Foundation.

Featuring a cast of 28, ATC’s first-ever production of *Fiddler* is the largest production the company has produced in over 30 years. The musical features a host of classics including “To Life,” “If I Were a Rich Man,” “Sunrise, Sunset” and “Matchmaker, Matchmaker.” The original Broadway production opened in September 1964 and ran for a then-record 3,232 performances. It has been subsequently continuously produced in nearly every country in the world, bringing its timeless mix of rich drama, delightful wit and timeless themes of faith to tens of millions. The original production won nine of its ten Tony Awards nominations. Subsequent revivals in 1981, 1991, 2004 and 2015 also earned Tony, Drama Desk and Olivier Award nominations.

When *Fiddler on the Roof* opened on Broadway in 1964, it was instantly embraced. *Fiddler* became the first Broadway show to run for more than 3,000 performances, spawning hundreds of productions all over the world in dozens of languages. The imaginary little village of Anatevka became more famous than many actual towns, and the character of Tevye became as beloved and iconic as any character in literature.

Based on a series of stories by the great Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem, *Fiddler On The Roof* is set in the world of the Jewish Pale of Settlement in pre-Revolutionary Tsarist Russia in 1905. *Fiddler on the Roof* is a richly heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives and the timeless traditions that define faith and family. It tells the deeply human story of Tevye, the milkman, Golde, his wife, and his five daughters as they wrestle with faith, love, prejudice and Diaspora, all while holding firmly to their religious and social traditions.

“*Fiddler* couldn’t be more specifically steeped in the details of a very particular place and time and religion and culture,” said Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein. “Yet the story of Tevye and his

daughters has achieved a universality that seemingly transcends every geographic and cultural barrier. The themes at the heart of ***Fiddler on the Roof*** are universal and deeply rooted in all our cultures. Tradition, family, and faith are under siege in Tevye and Golde's home – just as they were in the turbulent 1960s when ***Fiddler*** premiered – and just as they most surely are today in a polarized environment quickly adjusting to enormous global change.”

Ticket prices are \$30-\$80 and are available in-person in Tucson at the Temple of Music and Art box office or by calling (520) 622-2823. Tickets are available in-person in Phoenix at the Herberger Theater Center, or by calling (602) 256-6995 or online for performances in both cities at www.arizonatheatre.org.

For more information call (520) 622-2823 in Tucson, (602) 256-6995 in Phoenix or visit www.arizonatheatre.org.

BIOGRAPHIES

Jerry Bock (Music) and Sheldon Harnick (Lyrics) celebrated collaboration yielded five scores in seven years. *The Body Beautiful, Fiorello!* (winner of Broadway's triple crown: The Tony Award, The New York Critics' Circle Award and The Pulitzer Prize in drama). *Tenderloin, She Loves Me, Fiddler on the Roof* (nine Tony Awards, including best musical), *The Apple Tree* and *The Rothschilds*. Bock and Harnick were triply honored by being inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame, receiving the Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Spirit of American Creativity Award from the Foundation for a Creative America.

Joseph Stein (Book) started his career in television and was one of a noted group of writers on *Your Show of Shows* and *The Sid Caesar Show*. His work for the theatre includes *Plain and Fancy, Mr. Wonderful*, starring Sammy Davis, Jr., *Take Me Along, Enter Laughing, Fiddler on the Roof, Zorba*, with score by Kander and Ebb, *King of Hearts, Irene, Rags* and *The Baker's Wife*, which was produced in London and was nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award.

David Ira Goldstein (Director) celebrates his 25th and final season as Artistic Director of Arizona Theatre Company. In that time, he has produced and/or directed over 240 mainstage plays, workshops, readings and presentations. This season he will direct *Fiddler on the Roof* and the world premiere of *Holmes and Watson* by Jeffrey Hatcher for ATC. Mr. Goldstein has been a guest director at theatres all across the country including Arizona Opera, The Pasadena Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Florida Stage, Center Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Northlight Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Village Theatre, Geva Theatre Center, Laguna Playhouse, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Mixed Blood Theatre, The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis and Illusion Theatre. His musical *A Marvelous Party: The Noël Coward Celebration* has played extensively across the U.S., winning many awards including four Jeff Awards in Chicago (including Best Director), the Elliot Norton Award in Boston, several Bay Area Critics' Awards and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for Best Production. He received the 2003 Governor's Arts Award as Individual Artist for his contributions to the arts in Arizona.

Kathryn Van Meter (Choreographer) is returning to Arizona Theatre Company, where she choreographed *Xanadu* (Mac Award 2013) and *Next to Normal*. Ms. Van Meter is a three-time Gregory Award Nominee for Outstanding Choreography and winner for her work on *Mary Poppins*. Other choreography credits include *My Fair Lady, The Who's Tommy, The Secret Garden, Man of La Mancha* (Village Theatre); *High School Musical, Elephant and Piggie's "We Are in a Play", Bunnacula* (Seattle Children's Theatre); *Wizard of Oz, The Buddy Holly Story* (5th Avenue Theatre). Ms. Van Meter's work can also be seen in an episode of the upcoming NETFLIX Original Series, *13 Reasons Why*.

Michael Koerner (Music Director) is a composer, musical director and musician. At ATC, he has musical directed *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Fantasticks*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. He has also composed scores for ATC productions of *The Drawer Boy*, *Copenhagen*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Permanent Collection*, and *Tuesdays with Morrie*. In a 25-year association with the Tony Award-winning Theatre de la Jeune Lune, he collaborated on 33 productions.

The Company of Fiddler On The Roof includes:

Eric Polani Jensen (Teveye), who is making his ATC debut. Regional credits include: *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Village Theatre); *The Music Man*, *A Christmas Story*, *Candide* (5th Avenue Theatre); *The Shaughraun* (Seattle Rep); and *Red Noses* (ACT).

Anne Allgood (Golde) appeared previously at ATC in *Other Desert Cities*. Broadway: *The Most Happy Fella*, *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, *Imaginary Friends*, *Beauty and the Beast*, numerous concerts for ENCORES at City Center. National Tours: *South Pacific*, *Evita*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Floyd Collins*, *Urinetown*. Regional: credits coast-to-coast (Goodman Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Goodspeed Musicals, Old Globe, Geva Theatre Center, La Jolla Playhouse, and many others). She's starred at every major theatre in Seattle: over a dozen productions, among them *The Price*, *Old Times*, *The Women*, and the title role in *Mary Stuart* (ACT Theatre); *Candide*, *Company*, *The Sound of Music*, and many more (5th Avenue Theatre); *Bad Dates*, *You Can't Take It with You*, others (Seattle Repertory Theatre); *Angels in America*, *Cymbeline* (Intiman Theatre); Village Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Showtunes Theatre Company.

Teveye's daughters are played by **Jennifer Wingerter (Tzeitel)**, **Taylor Pearlstein (Hodel)**, **Krista Curry (Chave)**, **Janine Colletti (Shprintze)** and **Kate Godfrey (Bielke)**. Their suitors are played by **Kenny Metzger (Motel)**, **Patrick Shelton (Perchik)** and **Kevin Milnes (Fyedka)**.

Other members of the cast include **Armen Dirtadian (Lazar Wolf)**, **Kate Jaeger (Yente)**, **Mike Lawler (The Rabbi)**, **Sally Jo Bannow (Shaindel)**, **Jason Collins (The Fiddler)**, **James Zanelli (Avram)**, **Eric Gratton (Mordcha)**, **Cobey Mandarino (Constable/Nahum)**, **Danny Lacker (Mendel)**, **Sarah Wolter (Fruma Sarah)**, **Eric Lee Brotherson (Yussel)**, **Richard Peacock (Yakov)**, **Josh Dunn (Sasha)**, **Shira Elena Maas (Rivka)** and **Robertson Witmer (Accordion)**.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director: David Ira Goldstein

Choreographer: Kathryn Van Meter

Music Director/Conductor: Michael Koerner

Scenic Design: Bill Forrester

Lighting Design: Michael Gilliam

Costume Design: Cynthia Savage

Sound Design: Abe Jacob

Associate Choreographer: Adam Somers

Casting Associate: Matthew Wiener

Production Stage Manager: Peter Van Dyke

Tickets for *Fiddler on the Roof* start at \$25 and are subject to change depending on time, date and section, and are available at www.arizonatheatre.org or by calling the box office at (520) 622-2823 in Tucson or (602) 256-6995 in Phoenix. Discounts are available for seniors and active military. A \$10 student ticket pricing is now available for all performances. Half-price rush tickets are available for balcony seating for all performances one hour prior to curtain at the ATC box office (subject to availability). **Pay What You Can** performance is Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Tucson and Sunday, Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. in Phoenix. Tickets are available for a suggested \$10 donation. (Tickets must be purchased at the Temple of Music and Art or Herberger Theater Center starting one hour prior to curtain. Tickets are first-come, first served. *Cash only*. Two tickets maximum per person.) For discounts for

groups of 10 or more, call (520) 622-2823 in Tucson or (602) 256-6995 in Phoenix.

Arizona Theatre Company offers accessibility services for patrons with disabilities for select performances. **Audio Description** provides patrons with vision loss a running audio description of the movement and activities onstage through an infrared broadcast system. An Audio-Described performance is offered in Tucson on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. and in Phoenix on Thursday, Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Interested patrons with vision loss may request a tactile tour one hour prior to curtain. **American Sign Language Interpretation** is presented by professional, theatrically-trained ASL-interpreters for people who have deafness or hearing impairment. An ASL-interpreted performance is offered in Tucson on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m. and in Phoenix on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. **Open captioning** allows patrons to read the play's dialogue on an LED screen as the play progresses. An open captioned performance is offered in Tucson on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. and in Phoenix on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. For open-captioned or ASL-interpreted performances, patrons should request seats best suited to ASL interpretation or captioning when purchasing tickets. Large print and Braille playbills and infrared listening amplification devices are also available at every ATC performance with reservation. TTY access for the box office is available in Tucson at (520) 884-9723 or via Arizona Relay at (800) 367-8939 (TTY/ASCII).

Fact Sheet:

Fiddler on the Roof

Music by Jerry Bock

Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

Book by Joseph Stein

Directed by David Ira Goldstein

Tucson Venue:

Temple of Music and Art

330 S. Scott Ave.

Tucson, Arizona

Previews Begin: Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Closing Performance: Friday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m.

Phoenix Venue:

Herberger Theater Center

222 E. Monroe St.

Phoenix, Ariz.

Previews Begin: Friday, Jan. 6 at 8 p.m.

Opening Night: Saturday, Jan. 7 at 8 p.m.

Closing Performance: Sunday, Jan. 29 at 1 p.m.

Ticket Info:

Ticket prices are \$25-\$100 and are available in-person at the Temple of Music and Art box office or via phone at (520) 622-2823; or at the Herberger Theater Center box office or by calling (602) 256-6995 in Phoenix. Tickets also can be purchased online at www.arizonatheatre.org.

Contact:

Steve Carr, The Kur Carr Group, Inc., (602) 317-3040

About Arizona Theatre Company:

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) is the preeminent fully professional theatre in the state of Arizona committed to inspiring, engaging, and entertaining - one moment, one production, and one audience at a time. Boasting the largest seasonal subscriber base in the performing arts in Arizona, ATC is the only

resident company in the U.S. that is fully based in two cities providing its wide array of programming and community outreach across the region. Now in its 50th season, more than 130,000 people a year attend our performances at the historic Temple of Music and Art in Tucson, and the elegant Herberger Theater Center in downtown Phoenix. Each season of home-grown productions reflects the rich variety of world drama—from classics to contemporary plays, from musicals to new works—along with a wide array of community outreach programs, educational opportunities, access initiatives and new play programs. Designated The State Theatre of Arizona, ATC is led by Artistic Director David Ira Goldstein and a dedicated Board of Trustees.