



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY, CHEF MICHAEL POWELL JOIN TOGETHER TO BRING INSPIRED FOOD AND COOKING TO TEMPLE OF MUSIC & ART**

*Simplicit Restaurant To Be Open During "Fiddler on the Roof," Fully Operational in January*

TUCSON, Ariz. (Dec. 19, 2016): Tucson native and award-winning chef Michael Benjamin Powell, who has worked with some of the nation's most respected chefs, will bring his inspired food and cooking to the Temple of Music & Art in a partnership with Arizona Theatre Company.

Simplicit Restaurant will be open for dinner Wednesday through Sunday during the run of ATC's current production of ***Fiddler on the Roof*** and be fully operational in the Temple of Music & Art lounge in mid-January. ATC will continue to also host a variety of food trucks for the matinee performances of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

"Michael has brought his deep love for cooking back to Tucson after building his reputation and earning the highest local and national accolades in restaurants from his hometown to San Francisco and Napa to Newport Beach and New York City. We're thrilled to have him as a partner," said Arizona Theatre Company Associate Managing Director Herb Stratford. "His passion for food and his ability to make people happy doing what he loves is evident."

Inspired by his Greek grandfather, Powell knew at age seven he wanted to be a chef and at 10 wrote a letter to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) asking for information about the school.

After graduating from Sabino High School, Powell moved to New York to attend the CIA, where he was awarded its highest honor, The Frances L. Roth award for outstanding performance throughout the duration of the culinary arts program. At 22, he placed second in a national competition for the country's best young chefs under the age of 27.

At 23, Powell began a four-year stint as chef of Tucson's Soleil Restaurant, which only whet his appetite to prove himself in the nation's top food markets. Most recently, he was Executive Chef at Babette's in Crystal Grove, Newport Beach, where his cuisine was highlighted in a number of magazines and he was invited to be the feature chef at the 2015 Newport Beach Film Festival and the California Winemaster's charity event.

Before Babette's, Powell was Chef at Tarla Mediterranean Grill in Napa for two years, earning consecutive Michelin Recommendations and a place as a CBS San Francisco Dining by the Bay top 20 restaurant. He was also awarded best Mediterranean restaurant in the north bay in consecutive years. He also served as featured chef for the World of Flavors and the Napa Valley Film Festival, and was a finalist for the peer-selected Robert Mondavi Hospitality Award of Excellence. Prior to Tarla, he was Executive Chef at West Marin Olema Farm House Restaurant.

Powell has been published in local and national press, including Bon Appetit magazine, Restaurants and Institutions and The New York Times and has cooked for national and international leaders, royalty and some of the most recognized faces in sports and entertainment.

For complete information about Arizona Theatre Company's 2016-17 performance schedule, visit [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org).

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**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.

