



For Immediate Release

Family Musical Coming to The Strand

Plattsburgh, NY – Artistry Community Theatre and the Strand Center for the Arts are ecstatic to present the classic, family musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, this Spring at the historic Strand Theater located at 25 Brinkerhoff Street. Performances will be held on Friday, April 4 at 7pm, Saturday, April 5 at 7pm, and Sunday, April 6 at 2pm. Tickets can be purchased by visiting either www.strandcenter.org or www.artistrytheatre.org.

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, *Fiddler on the Roof*'s universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy, and sadness. With iconic and beloved songs such as "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were a Rich Man" and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," *Fiddler on the Roof* is the perfect mix of audience-pleasing humor and heart.

"*Fiddler on the Roof* is the quintessential musical," remarked Jason Borrie, who plays the lead role of Tevye, the dairyman. "The thread of themes in *Fiddler on the Roof* are universal, relevant, and eternal. Family, faith, modernization and progress, uncontrollable outside influences of daily life, and the strength of community are the guiding elements for all characters in this masterful piece of theatre from the golden age of Broadway." He continued, "Tevye plays the role of narrator and protagonist in a changing world in Russia in the early 1900s. From the beginning, Tevye and the tight-knit community of Anatevka express their deep-rooted traditions and devotion to faith as a unifying force that holds them all strongly together." Jason reflected, "As in real life, traditions can become outdated, problematic, and challenged. Tevye is confronted with several challenges to his beliefs of traditions, their connection to his faith, and his family. He struggles with multiple challenges to his core beliefs as he navigates through the decisions that impact his faith, family, and community," He noted, "Tevye is a complex character. The role of a father is equally linked to his long marriage to his wife, Golde, played by Nora Mockus. The two work in tandem throughout the story as they both confront the same struggles with their family and community." Jason added, "Working with Nora is a joy and privilege. She is extremely talented and makes the development of these characters so much more in-depth." Jason considers the role of Tevye to be one the undeniable greats in the musical theatre canon. "I am truly humbled and honored to have the opportunity to play this amazing role. I am extremely grateful for the privilege to perform with such a talented cast and production team as we work on bringing this show to life. To play Tevye is a dream come true. I hope audiences will love and appreciate this show as much as I do."

Nora Mockus, who plays Tevye's wife, Golde, said, "I'm excited to be playing the role of Golde opposite Jason Borrie!" She continued, "Golde and Tevye have been married for twenty-five years and are the mother of their five daughters. She is sharp-tongued and a resilient woman who copes with hardship through strength and a dry sense of humor. Most wives and mothers will connect with Golde at least one point in the show." She concluded, "I'm truly honored to be a part of this show with its talented cast, directors, and musicians. I hope people come out to support local theater in our community."

"*Fiddler on the Roof* is one of those musicals that offers the opportunity for audiences to hear some of their familiar and even favorite tunes performed by an outstandingly talented cast," stated music director Kathleen Kokes. "Audiences are sure to hum along to tunes like 'Sunrise, Sunset' and 'If I Were a Rich Man' when they hear our wonderful cast perform them live in the theatre." She concluded, "Seeing our production of this classic Broadway show in Plattsburgh's own historic Strand Theatre is sure to be a fabulous and memorable experience for people of all ages."

Derrick A. Hopkins, Director, said, "Family. Societal norms. Faith. Traditions. Historical significance. These themes are interwoven throughout a story filled with humor, joy, and the endurance of love." He continued, "*Fiddler on the Roof*, an iconic musical, is one that whole families can enjoy together. Filled with wonderful music from the knockout opening of 'Tradition' to the subtlety of 'Do You Love Me?' Every moment is based on truth and rooted in what it means to create and nurture a family." He elaborated about the production, "With our largest cast to date, featuring children, led by the incomparable talents of Jason Borrie and Nora Mockus, and with our largest orchestra of professional musicians, everyone is bringing their A-game to the table. The music, the dance, and the performances are spot on." Derrick wraps up, "Regardless of faith, race, political affiliation, and status, this show at its core is about the enduring spirit of the human heart, and a show to be enjoyed by all!"

Under the direction of Derrick A. Hopkins, music direction of Kathleen Kokes, choreography by Chelsea Lancaster, and Orchestra Direction by Jaenette Woodruff, tickets may be purchased by visiting www.strandcenter.org or www.artistrytheatre.org. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Ticket prices vary according to seat. Group rates are available by calling The Strand at (518) 563-1604. *Fiddler on the Roof* is recommended for all ages and for families. For our deaf and hearing impaired community, we are excited to have an ASL Interpreter at Saturday's performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

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