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News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***HARVEY FIERSTEIN TO REPLACE CHAIM TOPOL  
IN NORTH AMERICAN TOUR OF  
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF***

***“HARVEY FIERSTEIN HAS THE PRESENCE OF A WALKING VOLCANO!”  
- BEN BRANTLEY, NEW YORK TIMES***

**APPLETON, WI (October 26, 2009)** – Launching a new “tradition” Harvey Fierstein replaces Chaim Topol in the North American tour of the Tony® Award-winning musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Topol regrettably informed the show’s producers he would have to leave the production due to a shoulder injury requiring emergency, long-term treatment.

Fierstein starred as the iconic milkman Tevye in the recent critically acclaimed Broadway production. Audiences now have the rare opportunity to see the Tony Award-winner embrace one of his favorite roles in this Jerome Robbins inspired production. Fierstein has won four Tony awards including Best Book of a Play and Best Actor in a Play for *Torch Song Trilogy*. His most recent win was the 2003 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical for the Broadway production of *Hairspray*. In addition to his Tony Award-winning role in the *Torch Song Trilogy*, Fierstein recreated the role in the film adaptation thus winning him an Independent Spirit Award nomination as Best Male Lead. Other film work includes “Mrs. Doubtfire,” Woody Allen’s “Bullets Over Broadway” and “Independence Day.”

*Fiddler on the Roof* has captured the hearts of people all over the world with its universal appeal and timeless message. The North American Tour continues the tradition of the 1964 Jerome Robbins Tony Award-winning production. Robbins won twin Tony Awards for his direction and choreography of Broadway’s *Fiddler on the Roof*. In this National Tour, both are faithfully recreated by Director Sammy Dallas Bayes, choreographer of the Broadway revival.

When *Fiddler on the Roof* opened in the United States in 1964, it was a time of change and crumbling traditions in our own country. Perhaps the explanation for its world-wide success in the '60s and '70s was because the play illustrated the universality of such problems as the "generation gap," youthful dissent, revolutionary doctrine and the oppression of minorities. Students of the time identified with the rebellious student, Perchik, and strongly related to the breaking of hallowed traditions. Tevye and others of his time struggled with these problems in 1905, and emerged triumphant, offering the hope and promise of reconciliation to a turbulent society. Today, *Fiddler on the Roof* is as relevant as ever.

Now in a world fraught with anxiety and fear, the one constant humanity can rely on is the strength of family and of its traditions that will ultimately sustain it through its own trials and tribulations. Forty-five years and a generation later, new audiences can identify and take heart as they experience the tradition in great musical theater that is *Fiddler on the Roof*.

*Fiddler on the Roof* will be at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center for eight performances May 11-16, 2010. Tickets start at \$47 and can be purchased starting Friday, March 19, 2010 at 10 a.m. by calling Ticketmaster at (800) 982-2787 or the Center's ticket office at (920) 730-3760. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center's ticket office or online at [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com). Groups of 15 or more can order tickets now and save by calling (920) 730-3786. Season Ticket Holders and groups who have already purchased tickets to *Fiddler on the Roof* will be notified of this change in casting.

*Fiddler on the Roof* is locally supported by community partners Menasha Corporation and SECURA Insurance Companies.

#### **ABOUT M&I BANK BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA - FOX CITIES**

M&I Bank Broadway Across America - Fox Cities, exclusively at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, is presented in partnership with Broadway Across America. The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, located in downtown Appleton, Wisconsin, is a gathering place for the community and a state-of-the-art venue where the arts come alive. Additional information is available at [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com).

#### **ABOUT BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA**

Broadway Across America: Owned and operated by British theatre producer John Gore (CEO) and entertainment industry veteran Thomas B. McGrath (Chairman), Broadway Across America presents first-class touring Broadway musicals and plays, family productions and other live events throughout a network of 43 North American cities. Broadway Across America is also dedicated to the development and production of new and diverse live theatre for productions on Broadway, across America and throughout the world. Broadway Across America most recently produced *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* on Broadway, while current and upcoming productions include *West Side Story*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Minsky's*, and the DeafWest production of *Pippin*. Broadway tours include *Dora The Explorer*, *Frost/Nixon*, *Spamalot*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Fiddler On The Roof*. For more information or to purchase tickets through an authorized agent go to [BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com](http://BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com).

## **ABOUT THE FOX CITIES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, located in downtown Appleton, provides a premier venue for live performing arts. The Center proudly serves as a gathering place for the community to engage in educational opportunities while enhancing a greater understanding and appreciation of the live performance arts. For more information on upcoming events, education programs and community involvement go to [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com). The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center – *Where the Arts Come Alive!*

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