

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
(559) 733-6606 – office
(559) 303-8568 – cell

**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:
Theatre Company's *Fiddler on the Roof* opens July 18
Tickets now available for seven shows offered July 18-26, 2014
L.J. Williams Theater, 1001 W. Main, Visalia**

Visalia – In celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Fiddler on the Roof*'s debut Broadway production, the TCOE Theatre Company will perform the popular musical seven times this summer. "*Fiddler* is one of the most popular musicals ever written," says Brian Roberts, director of the Theatre Company. "We wanted our students to be familiar with the material because it is a classic and because they will certainly come across it again as they keep performing."

Fiddler on the Roof is based on the story of Tevye, a father of five daughters who struggles to maintain his family and their Jewish traditions in pre-revolutionary Russia. Tevye, who will be played by Redwood High School junior Jack O'Leary, must cope both with the strong-willed actions of his three older daughters and the edict of Russia's tsar to evict the Jews from their village.

"We try to select very different material from year to year," says Mr. Roberts. "So, after

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doing *Shrek* last summer, a classic like *Fiddler* seemed natural. Our students will be challenged by the deep characters and the cultural differences they encounter in this show. It's an actor's musical, demanding strong characterizations that are very different from what our students have experienced in the past."

The original Broadway production of the show, which opened in 1964, was the first musical theatre run in history to surpass 3,000 performances. *Fiddler* also won nine Tony Awards.

Key Roles

Tevye - Jack O'Leary, Redwood High School (Visalia)

Golde - Rebekah Cole, Home School

Yente - Carly Caviglia, Golden West High School (Visalia)

Tzeitel - Jessica Bonnar, Golden West High School graduate (Visalia)

Motel - Tiger Ricks, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center (Visalia)

Hodel - Kaley McConnaughey, Redwood High School (Visalia)

Perchik - Tristan Peck, El Diamante High School graduate (Visalia)

Chava - Tessa Harden, Mt. Whitney High School (Visalia)

Fyedka - Tristan Fierros, El Diamante High School (Visalia)

Performance and Ticket Information

The Theatre Company will perform *Fiddler on the Roof* seven times in July. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. on July 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. Matinee performances begin

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at 2:00 p.m. on July 19 and 26. Tickets are now available at TCOE Visalia offices:

2637 West Burrel Avenue and 7000 Doe Avenue, Suite A. General admission tickets are \$12 per person. Reserved VIP seating is \$20 per person. Any remaining tickets will be available at the theater's box office 30 minutes before each performance. For more information, call the Theatre Company at (559) 651-1482.