

JOSEPH STEIN – JERRY BOCK – SHELDON HARNICK

Fiddler on the Roof

THE GREATEST MUSICAL OF ALL TIME

Premiere 29 August 2012 on Helsinki City Theatre's main stage

Performed in Finnish, no subtitles.

Translation: Esko Elstelä

Director: Hans Berndtsson

Choreography: Rebecca Evanne

Conductor: Markku Luuppala

Set and costumes: Ralf Forsström

Lighting design: William Iles

Sound design: Kirsi Peteri, Jyrki Sandell

Make-up: Jutta Kainulainen, Maija Vuoristo

Hairdresser: Jaana Nykänen, Milja Mensonen

Starring: Esko Roine, Riitta Havukainen, Janne Aspvik, Sofia Hilli, Ritva Jalonen, Hanna Kaila, Emmi Kangas, Kirsi Karlenius, Risto Kaskilahti, Sampo Kerola, Ilkka Kokkonen, Ahto Koskitalo, Jaana Kovanen, Pekka Kähkönen, Petrus Kähkönen / Antti Lang, Jarkko Lehmus, Tuukka Leppänen, Sanna Majuri, Kari Mattila, Sini Mäenpää, Hanna Mönkäre, Heidi Naakka, Unto Nuora, Jukka Nylund, Sami Paasila, Lasse Pajunen, Tiina Peltonen, Raili Raitala, Matti Olavi Rainin, Eeva Rantala, Alekski Seppänen, Katja Sirkiä, Antti Timonen, Anna-Maija Tuokko, Valtteri Tuominen, Leenamari Unho, Mikko Vihma, Jussi Virkki, Mirva Väänänen, Marika Westerling, Vera Brusi / Dorota Osinska, Iida Kontro / Ella Kettunen

Violin: Mauri Saarikoski / Toivo Rolser

Fiddler on the Roof is based on the Yiddish-language short story Tevye and his Daughters by Sholem Aleichem. The music for Joseph Stein's stageplay is by Jerry Block and the lyrics are by Sheldon Harnick.

The musical is set in the fictional town of Anatevka in early 20th century Russia. The poor milkman Tevye and his wife Golde have five daughters, who Tevye wants to marry off in accordance with Jewish tradition. He has already found a suitable groom for his eldest daughter Tzeitel, but her heart would choose differently. Tevye tries his best to preserve his family's Jewish traditions in a rapidly changing world, where life is complicated not only by his daughters' marriage woes, but also by the rising anti-Semitism in Tsarist Russia. Complimented by beautiful, touching music and positive, warm-hearted humour, this beloved story has captivated countless audiences all over the world.

The musical debuted on Broadway in 1964, where it was performed for seven years and nine months, totalling a record-breaking 3,342 individual performances. It retained its title as the longest-running Broadway musical in the world for almost ten years, and is still counted among the 15 most performed plays on Broadway.

The original performance won numerous accolades, including nine Tony awards, and has been revived four times since its debut. In London's West End, the musical has been part of the listings three times following its 1967 premiere. In 1971, the musical was adapted into a motion picture, which won three Academy Awards.

In Finland, Fiddler on the Roof premiered even before it did in the West End, just one year after its Broadway debut. Premiering at Helsinki City Theatre on 1 August 1965, the musical proved to be an unparalleled smash hit. Fiddler was performed a total of 446 times at Helsinki City Theatre, with a record-breaking total of 316,597 viewers, which, even today, remains the largest audience for a single play in Finnish theatre history.

The continuing popularity of the musical is evident in numerous international tours and both professional and amateur productions all over the globe. Fiddler on the Roof is one of the most performed theatrical productions in the world, both in Finland and internationally.