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UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ACTRESS JOINS SUU'S DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS & DANCE FACULTY AS THE LEADS IN "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: A beloved performer at the Utah Shakespeare Festival couples with a Festival favorite and SUU Theatre Arts educator to perform the leading roles in **SUU's Departments of Music and Theatre Arts and Dance's** 50th anniversary of the Tony Award-winning musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. **Peter Sham** undertakes the iconic role of Tevye the Dairyman while Equity Guest Artist **Melinda Pfundstein** plays his enduring spouse Golde. This award-winning musical will be performed on **February 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28** and **March 2 at 7:30pm** with a matinee performance on **Saturday February 28 at 2pm** in the **Randall L. Jones Theatre** on the SUU campus in Cedar City.

Peter Sham is head of acting and directing for Southern Utah University's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. A veteran actor for over 30 years, he was a principal member of the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival for eleven seasons, and has performed at such places as the Asolo Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Studio Arena Theatre, Eastside Playhouse, Perry Street Theatre, Artpark and Yale Cabaret. He was most recently seen at the Neil Simon Festival as Max Prince in *Laughter On The 23rd Floor*. Peter is known for his work as bookwriter/lyricist on *Lend Me A Tenor The Musical* (Brad Carroll, composer), which celebrated a successful run at the Gielgud Theatre on London's West End and is in the planning stages for a run on Broadway. He is currently working on a musical revue, *Blue Collar Op'ra* for Branson, MI, and an opera based on the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Delaware's nationally acclaimed Professional Theatre Training Program. Peter is the 2013 recipient of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival's Excellence in Education Award, SUU's 2013 Scholar of the Year Award winner, 2012 winner of SUU's Board of Trustees Award for Excellence and SUU's 2012 Thunderbird Award winner for "Professor of the Year."

Melinda Pfundstein recently completed her 17th year in the acting company of the Utah Shakespeare Festival, where she played the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, and Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. Favorite roles

at the festival include Constance, *King John*; Eliza Doolittle, *My Fair Lady*; Roxane, *Cyrano de Bergerac*; Rosaline, *Love's Labour's Lost*; Belle, *Ah! Wilderness!*; and Hermione, *A Winter's Tale*. Other theatres include Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, The Skylight, and First Stage Children's Theatre. She is an Adjunct Instructor at Southern Utah University, where she received Bachelor's degrees in Theatre Arts and Dance Performance, and is currently working toward a Master's in Arts Administration. Melinda is a member of the Actor's Equity Union.

Having these two talents helm the cast is inspiring for all those involved in the production. **Shauna Mendini**, Dean of SUU's College of Performing and Visual Arts and the show's choreographer, is enthusiastic about Sham and Pfundstein participating in the production. "Not only are they both acclaimed actors but are outstanding educators as well. Their contributions will be an enormous source of inspiration to our student performers in the cast. Their commitment to *Fiddler* will make this 50th anniversary production one of the most outstanding collaborations for our Departments of Music and Theatre Arts and Dance."

Fiddler on the Roof features music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and book by Joseph Stein, set in the Pale of Settlement of Imperial Russia in 1905. It is based on *Tevye and his Daughters* (or *Tevye the Dairyman*) and other tales by Sholem Aleichem. The story centers on [Tevye](#), the father of five daughters, and his attempts to maintain his Jewish religious and cultural traditions, as outside influences encroach upon the family's lives. Boasting a glorious score that includes such musical gems as "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were a Rich Man," "Tradition" and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," ***Fiddler on the Roof*** brims with wit, a genuine poignancy and characters that will capture your heart.

Don't be disappointed, we suggest purchasing tickets in advance for this highly anticipated production. Tickets are now on sale and are: **\$15 Adult General Admission; \$12 SUU Alumni with card; and \$7 Youth and free for Faculty/Staff and SUU students with a valid ID** (faculty and staff are entitled to bring one guest). You can purchase the **CPVA Flex Pass** which offers six admissions and the cost of the Flex Pass is **\$40** per pass (a \$65 value) and all six entrances can be used for ***Fiddler on the Roof***. For tickets or the Flex Pass, call the SUU Ticket Office at (435) 586-7872, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm, or purchase in person at the Centrum Arena box office. Single tickets may be purchased online at www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The **Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts** is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration and the new Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees;

professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean at (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*

WHAT: A beloved performer at the Utah Shakespeare Festival couples with a Festival favorite and SUU Theatre Arts educator to perform the leading roles in SUU's Departments of Music and Theatre Arts and Dance's 50th anniversary of the Tony Award-winning musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Peter Sham undertakes the iconic role of Tevye the Dairyman while Equity Guest Artist Melinda Pfundstein plays his enduring spouse Golde.

WHO: Southern Utah University, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Theatre Arts & Dance Series

WHEN: Feb. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and Mar. 2 @7:30pm, Feb. 28 @ 2pm

WHERE: Randall L. Jones Theatre, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT

TICKETS: (435) 586-7872, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm or visit: www.suu.edu/pva/arts

PRICES: General Adult Admission: \$15; SUU Alumni with card: \$12 Student & Youth: \$7; SUU Faculty, Staff and Students: Free with valid I.D. CPVA Flex Passes \$40 each, good for six admissions