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The Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company presents

**Theodore Bikel in**  
**SHOLOM ALEICHEM: LAUGHTER THROUGH TEARS**

Written by and Starring Theodore Bikel

Directed by Derek Goldman

Musical Direction by Tamara Brooks

Merima Ključo, Accordionist

Academy Award- and two-time Tony Award-nominee **Theodore Bikel's** new one-man show, **SHOLOM ALEICHEM: LAUGHTER THROUGH TEARS**, a biographical look at the Yiddish writer's life, will have its Canadian premiere at Toronto's Winter Garden Theatre, October 13 - 18, 2009 as part of the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company's 2009/2010 season.

*"Written, sung, and acted with touching reverence."* Washington Post

Deeply researched, powerfully felt and beautifully sung, **SHOLOM ALEICHEM: LAUGHTER THROUGH TEARS** is the true tale of the great Yiddish storyteller's youth, fame and challenging journey to America. Singing in English and Yiddish, Bikel captivates the audience with an enchanting trove of music from Eastern Europe, played live onstage by world-renowned Grammy Award-nominated Tamara Brooks and internationally renowned Bosnian accordionist Merima Ključo.

*"Bikel keeps observers rapt."* Miami Herald

**Sholom Aleichem** published more than 40 widely translated volumes of novels, stories, and plays in Yiddish. English translations from his 14-volume collected works include *Jewish Children* and *The Old Country*. Sholom Aleichem's stories introduced the world to Tevye the Milkman and inspired the landmark Broadway musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. Sholom Aleichem's last will and testament requested that he be remembered only with laughter; **SHOLOM ALEICHEM: LAUGHTER THROUGH TEARS** lovingly fulfills that wish.

*"Bikel has written a love letter to his lost culture."* Washington Jewish Review

Born in Vienna in 1924, **Theodore Bikel's** multi-faceted career began on the stages of Israel's Habima and Cameri Theatres, and at London's famed Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. His theatre resume reads like a catalogue of the best-known productions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to having appeared on stage with such luminaries as Laurence Olivier, Vivian Leigh, and Peter Ustinov, **Bikel** is known for having originated the role of Baron Von Trapp in the *Sound of Music* on Broadway, and for portraying Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* over 2000 times in the last 37 years!

**Bikel's** illustrious film career began with his role in the 1951 classic *The African Queen*, opposite Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn. He received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of the southern sheriff in *The Defiant Ones* (1958) with Tony Curtis and Sidney Poitier, and went on to appear in such varied films as *My Fair Lady* (1964), *The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming* (1966), and Frank Zappa's cult classic *200 Motels* (1971). **Bikel** is also an Emmy Award-winning actor, his resume once again appearing to be a compendium of television history, with guest turns in such series as: *The Twilight Zone*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Gunsmoke*, *All in the Family*, *The Love Boat*, *Knight Rider*, *Murder She Wrote*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Law and Order*, and many more.

**Bikel** is perhaps best-known and loved as a folk-singing troubadour. As a co-founder of the Newport Folk Festival and a significant presence in the 1960s Greenwich Village folk scene, **Bikel** performed with the likes of Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger. He sings in over twenty languages and has performed throughout the U.S.A, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Israel, New Zealand and Australia at numerous prestigious venues. His over thirty solo recordings have featured Jewish folk and Russian gypsy songs, Soviet Jewish freedom songs smuggled out of the USSR, Yiddish theatre songs, and folk music of many nations. He has also been featured on a number of cast recordings for musicals in which he has appeared. **Bikel** has recently released two new CDs: *In My Own Lifetime* (2006) compiles his favourite musical theatre songs from *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Zorba the Greek*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Sound of Music*, and from composers Jacques Brel, Kurt Weill and others, while *Our Song* (2007) features duets in various languages with renowned Greek cantor Alberto Mizrahi.

Founded in 2006, the **HAROLD GREEN JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY** aims to illuminate humanity through a Jewish perspective by inviting artists and audiences to participate in live theatre, the meeting place of all the arts.

Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company presents  
The Canadian premiere of  
**SHOLOM ALEICHEM: LAUGHTER THROUGH TEARS**

October 13 – 18, 2009

Winter Garden Theatre, 189 Yonge Street, Toronto

Written by Theodore Bikel

Music Direction by Tamara Brooks

Tamara Brooks, Piano • Merima Ključo, Accordionist

Directed by Derek Goldman

Set Design by Robbie Hayes • Costume Design by Frank Labovitz • Lighting Design by Jason Arnold  
Sound Design by Matt Otto • Projection Design by Zack Borovay

Previews Tuesday, October 13, 8pm & Wednesday, October 14, 2pm

**OFFICIAL OPENING NIGHT: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ 8PM**

Continues until Sunday, October 18

Tickets On Sale Now for Eight Performances Only!

Tickets are \$40 - \$75 and can be purchased in person at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre Box Office, by calling Ticketmaster at 416.872.5555 or online at [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca).

3-Play subscriptions for the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company's 2009-2010 season are now on sale: **SHOLOM ALEICHEM: LAUGHTER THROUGH TEARS**, October 13 -18, 2009; **YICHUD (SECLUSION) \* World Premiere** \* February 5 - March 7, 2010; **THE SOUL OF GERSHWIN**, May 1 - 9, 2010. Subscriptions range from \$99 - \$162 and are available by calling 416.366.7723, 1.800.708.6754 or online at [www.stlc.com](http://www.stlc.com).

**Sholom Aleichem: Laughter Through Tears**

Presented by Special Arrangement with National Jewish Theater

Arnold Mittelman, Producing Artistic Director

Originally developed in 2008 by Theater J, Washington, DC

Ari Roth, Artistic Director and Patricia Jenson, Managing Director

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