

HISTORY OF THE MUSICAL

Since its successful Broadway premiere on September 22, 1964, *Fiddler on the Roof* has become the world's most acclaimed musical receiving accolades for productions in more than 30 countries.

The Broadway production won nine 1965 Tony Awards, the Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical and had 3,242 performances, making it the longest running Broadway musical of its time. A generation later, *Fiddler* is still one of the longest running shows in Broadway history (ninth).

In April 1966 the first national tour opened and broke box office records across North America for almost five years. A London production opened in February 1967 and continued playing to standing room only audiences through 1971. The critical success of the Paris production that opened in October 1969 ensured a triumphant two year run. The production of *Fiddler* in Helsinki, Finland also ran for two years while also maintaining a regional touring production in four of the small country's theatres.

Other international productions included stops in Australia, Belgium, Hungary, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Holland, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Israel, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Japan, Iceland, Spain, Switzerland, New Zealand, Turkey, Holland, Mexico, South Africa, and the former Rhodesia, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and East and West Germany. *Fiddler of the Roof* has been performed in more than 15 languages worldwide and has 18 original cast recordings.

In 1971, an Academy awarding-winning musical film version of *Fiddler on the Roof* proved that its success was not limited to the stage.

In addition to Broadway revivals of *Fiddler* in 1976, 1981 and 1990, the London Anniversary revival in 1983, and the 1998 Melbourne revival, several anniversary tours of the musical have been produced in North America. Following successful 25th and

30th anniversary tours, Fiddler, now touring in its 36th year, remains the theatrical event of a lifetime.