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**"KIDS & YIDDISH" TURNS TEN!**

**FOLKSBIENE CELEBRATES KIDS CLASSIC WITH BEST-OF RETROSPECTIVE  
"A PERFECT TSEN!"**

**POPULAR HOLIDAY TREAT PREMIERES NOVEMBER 22**

*(November 2, 2009)* The Drama Desk Award-winning National Yiddish Theatre – Folksbiene is turning cartwheels as its cherished holiday tradition turns ten. Packed with all-time favorites and a slew of new bits, “Happy Birthday Kids & Yiddish! A Perfect Tsen” begins performances on Sunday November 22 at 11am, playing a total of five shows on four consecutive Sundays through December 13. This year’s edition of Kids & Yiddish, featuring three new cast members, performs at Folksbiene’s new permanent home, the Baruch Performing Arts Center, 55 Lexington Avenue (25<sup>th</sup> Street, entrance between Lexington and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues).

Renewing what has become a cherished holiday tradition, this year the musical funfest for families explores the themes of growing up and learning how to make things add up. As is always the case, Kids & Yiddish gleefully mixes Jewish folk traditions with popular culture, and satirizes some of the latest fads on TV, all the while cleverly weaving in Yiddish words and phrases. Some of the show’s greatest hits and familiar characters, drawn from a 10-year-old treasure trove of mirth, will pop up for encores.

Starring founding members **Joanne Borts** ("Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh" "Fiddler on the Roof" on Broadway with Topol and appearances with The Klezmatics and Neil Sedaka), and **Jenny Romaine** (Circus Amok and the Obie-winning Great Small Works), “A Perfect Tsen!” features returning cast members **Sarah Mlotek**, aged 11; **Aaron Mayer**, aged 14, and **Rachel Yucht**, who comes from a long line of prominent Yiddishists. The new ensemble members are **Amy Erlanger**; and **Stav Meishar**.

Kids & Yiddish is directed by Ms. Borts and co-written by Ms. Borts, **Michael Fox** and **Zalmen Mlotek**, with music direction by Mr. Mlotek, the world-recognized Yiddish music expert and conductor. **Penny Ayn Maas** is responsible for the choreography and musical staging.

A million cultural references from high and low and near and far combine into a richly amusing and informative hot pot of fun. Where else can you mix rock, rap, klezmer, calypso and references to Molly Picon, Zero Mostel and Howie Mandel? With “Kids and Yiddish,” which is 90% English and 10% Yiddish, Jewish folk traditions meet popular culture. The results – favorites like the Sounds of Lamed, Silly Vov Songs, Dos Naye Lid and We Will Hock You and new versions of American Aydl Didl Daydl,

Der Ayzerner Chef and So, You Wanna Be a Milyontchik? – will *nachas* your socks off. The NY Times raves “Kids and Yiddish” is “hilarious!” adding that “the show is like a wacky borscht belt-style revue, but much hipper than anything your grandmother might have enjoyed.”

"Happy Birthday Kids & Yiddish! A Perfect Tsen!" performs five times on four consecutive Sundays, November 22 and 29 at 11am; December 6 at 11am and 2pm; and December 13 at 11am. For tickets, which are \$20 for adults and \$17 for children 12 and under, call 646/312-5073, or visit [www.folksbiene.org](http://www.folksbiene.org). For more information visit [www.folksbiene.org](http://www.folksbiene.org).

Now in its 95<sup>th</sup> consecutive season, the National Yiddish Theatre – Folksbiene is America's sole-surviving professional Yiddish theatre and the longest-continuously producing Yiddish theatre company in the world. Kids & Yiddish, central to the company's outreach, emphasizes making the legacy of the Yiddish theatre accessible and enjoyable to a new generation.

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