



Huron Country Playhouse launches 50th Anniversary Season *Summer theatre is back and there's a Fiddler on the Loose in Grand Bend*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – It's a landmark year for the Huron Country Playhouse! The iconic summer theatre destination celebrates 50 years of theatre in Grand Bend and a return to live performance after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The golden anniversary season will kick off with the high-energy musical extravaganza *Fiddler on the Loose* on the Mainstage from **June 23 to July 9**.

"Fiddler on the Loose is an electrifying fusion of music and comedy that will leave audiences clapping along and dancing their way out of the theatre," says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. "This fun, high-energy production is the perfect way to kick off our special anniversary season. Commemorating the longevity of the Huron Country Playhouse means even more after all we've been through over the last two years of closure."

Crafted to showcase the incredible talents of fiddler and showman **Jesse Grandmont**, *Fiddler on the Loose* is a lively revue packed with over 60 songs running the gamut of genres from country and bluegrass to Celtic, classical, pop, and more.

Conceived by **David Rogers**, one of Canada's most accomplished artists, and directed and choreographed by **David Hogan**, *Fiddler on the Loose* features more than just fantastic fiddling – there's singing, dancing, and plenty of comedy in the mix.

Grandmont anchors the production with his natural charisma, breezy banter, and seemingly effortless musical flourishes. He is a natural-born entertainer, evidenced by the fact that he has been playing the violin since the age of three, and has toured internationally with the Ontario Festival Symphony Orchestra and the popular fiddle group, Barrage. He also recently finished a seven-month contract at Expo Dubai.

In this show, Grandmont fiddles and sings up a storm, while sharing the stage and showcasing the considerable talents of fellow artists **Devan Ballagh, Matt Ballagh, Paige Ballagh, Leah Grandmont, Elena Howard-Scott, Stephen Ingram, Erik Larson, and Dave Robilliard**.

Together, they present a musical variety show that covers the spectrum of styles, including fiddle favourites ("The Devil Went Down to Georgia" "Orange Blossom Special"), country

standards (“Thank God I’m A Country Boy,” “The Gambler”), unbridled feel-good rock ‘n’ roll (“Rock This Town,” “Rock Around The Clock”), Broadway (complete with a *Fiddler on the Roof* montage), emotional ballads (“Hallelujah”), and more.

Set, Costume, and Lighting Design are by **D2 Entertainment**, with **Jesse Grandmont** serving double duty as Music Director, **Charles Russell** is the Stage Manager, and **Stephanie Bignell** is the Assistant Stage Manager.

Fiddler on the Loose is proudly sponsored by **Hay Communications** and **Oakwood Resort**. Media Sponsors are **Country 104**, **1290 CJBK**, **Pure Country 93**, **CKNX** and **The London Free Press**. The Design Sponsors are **CHOK 103.9** and **To Do Ontario**.

Fiddler on the Loose runs **June 23 to July 9** at the Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend. Along with *Fiddler on the Loose*, the complete golden anniversary season also includes the funny British farce *It Runs in the Family* (July 20 to Aug 6) and the classical musical *The Sound of Music* (Aug 17 to Sept 4) on the Mainstage, and the inspirational musical tribute *Good Ol’ Country Gospel* (July 20 to Aug 6) and the heartwarming friendship comedy *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club* (Aug 18 to Sept 4) on the South Huron Stage (formerly Playhouse II).

“We encourage audiences to make a special trip to Grand Bend this summer – hit the beach, visit local restaurants, play a round of golf, tour the wineries nearby, stay over at one of the many first-rate area accommodations, and of course, see a show or two to mark this momentous anniversary,” says Mustakas. “We’re excited and ready to entertain you.”

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Box Office, by calling **(519) 238-6000** or toll free at **1-855-drayton (372-9866)**, or online instantly at www.huroncountryplayhouse.com.

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For more information, please contact:
Amanda Kind, Director of Communications
Phone: (519) 621-5511 ext. 235
amanda@draytonentertainment.com