

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOP THREE CONTESTANTS ANNOUNCED FOR \$80,000 WEDDING GIVEAWAY CONTEST AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces the three final couples, selected from more than 100 entries, who are vying to win a free wedding currently valued at \$80,000 in the company's unique and memorable Southwest, D.C. venue. The contest, which is inspired by the company's upcoming production *Fiddler on the Roof*, asked couples to prove to Tevye, the show's patriarch with five daughters of his own, why they are the perfect match for each other in order to win the wedding of their dreams. The three finalists include teachers and arts lovers **Megan Thrift** and **Dan Deiter** of Alexandria, VA, who met working on a theater production together; cartoonist **Michael O'Sullivan** and marketer **Shawn G. Byers**, who are Southwest, D.C. residents and proof that opposites do attract; and quirky college sweethearts based in Upper Marlboro, MD, **Kaisha S. Sutton** and **Quinton Huguley**, who believe in genuine, long-lasting love.

As one final challenge, the top three finalists have been asked to share one family tradition they'll be keeping and one new tradition they've established on their own. The winning couple will be chosen by Broadway veteran **Jonathan Hadary**, who will star as Tevye in the Arena Stage production, along with the show's director, Arena Stage Artistic Director **Molly Smith**, and will be announced September 30.

The winning couple will receive a free wedding ceremony, cocktail hour and reception for up to 175 guests at the Mead Center for American Theater, with the wedding date set for Friday, January 2 or Sunday, January 11, 2015.

The full wedding package includes free use of the venue, catering and a wedding cake by [RSVP Catering](#), décor by [Design Foundry](#), music and lighting by [Bruce Pike Productions](#), floral design, valet parking by [MJ Valet](#), a bridal suite provided by [Mandarin Oriental, Washington D.C.](#), an engagement portrait session by [Cameron Whitman Photography](#), a photo booth from [Poshbooth](#), wedding day photography by [Steve and Jane](#), wedding day videography, event planning services by [Belle Notte](#) and [Simply Breathe Events](#), a custom wedding hanger from [Wedding Hanger Shop](#), an invitation to the *Fiddler on the Roof* official opening night performance and exclusive post-show party and other surprises as planning progresses.

The second and third place couples will receive a free engagement photography session from [Sam Hurd Photography](#) and a pair of tickets to the official opening night of *Fiddler on the Roof*. All contestants will also be invited to attend a special sneak-peek performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

For additional information and photos of the top three couples, visit arenastage.org/winawedding. To view pictures from all of our contest applicants, visit pinterest.com/arenastage.

To learn more about wedding rentals in the Mead Center, visit arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/the-mead-center/event-rentals/weddings.

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About *Fiddler on the Roof*: Celebrate the 50th anniversary of an American classic! More than just a poor milkman, Tevye is a humble Jewish father who finds his devotion to God severely tested by his headstrong daughters, who want to be their own matchmakers, and the increasingly ruthless government forcing him from his land. With a jubilant and masterful score including “If I Were a Rich Man,” “Sunrise, Sunset,” “Matchmaker, Matchmaker” and “Tradition,” *Fiddler on the Roof* is a celebration of family, community and life’s unexpected miracles, large and small. Directed by Artistic Director Molly Smith and starring Tony Award nominee Jonathan Hadary (Broadway’s *All Shook Up*, *The Best Man*, *Spamalot*, *Gypsy*), as Tevye, *Fiddler on the Roof* runs October 31, 2014 -January 4, 2015 in the Fichandler Stage.

Fiddler on the Roof is generously sponsored by Altria. Additional support is provided by the William S. Abell Foundation.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Arena Stage impacts the lives of thousands of students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org.

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