

StageWest Theatre Company

At the Civic Center's Stoner Theater, 221 Walnut St, Des Moines

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Ron Lambert, Producing Artistic Director

515.309.0251 E: ron@stagewestiowa.com

www.StageWestIowa.com

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StageWest is proud to present the timely and topical Central Iowa premiere of the Tony Award-winning Best Play – “Torch Song Trilogy,” by Harvey Fierstein. Opens June 18th.

“Torch Song Trilogy” is the story of Arnold Beckoff, a gay man in the 1970s, searching for love, self-respect, parenthood, and the importance of family. The play is actually three one-act plays in one, “International Stud,” “Fugue in a Nursery,” and “Widows and Children First.” Together, they tell Arnold’s life story over a seven-year period – his journey from drag queen performer through personal relationships, including adoptive father, and as a son. The play provides an entertaining and enlightening story that all adult audiences will be able to identify with, each in their own personal way.

Demonstrating its universal appeal, “Torch Song Trilogy” played for over 1,200 performances on Broadway and won the 1982 Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for Best Play. The original cast included Harvey Fierstein, Matthhew Broderick and Estelle Getty (“The Golden Girls”). “ The 1988 film also featured Fierstein, Broderick, plus Anne Bancroft. And now, for the first time, it is being presented in Des Moines. With the national discussion of same-sex marriage and family values, perhaps Arnold’s journey is more relevant than ever.

The StageWest production is directed by new Associate Artistic Director, Todd Buchacker. Todd’s StageWest directing credits include “Jerry Springer-The Opera,” “Hedwig and the Angry Inch,” and “Angels in America.” The cast features Brad Dell (ISU theatre professor) in the pivotal role of Arnold, plus Stacy Brothers (“The Women of Lockerbie”), Scott Siepker (“Almost, Maine”), Matt Oleson (“The History Boys”) and StageWest newcomers Tyler Lubinus, Amanda Mullen and Jacob Wittenauer.

Performances: June 18-19 and 23-26 at 7:30 PM

June 20 and 27 at 3:00 PM

Location: Civic Center’s Stoner Theater, 221 Walnut Street, Des Moines

Tickets: \$18/Wed/Thur. \$22/Fri/Sat/Sun.

Available in person at the Civic Center Ticket Office or through Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or online at www.civiccenter.org. Half-price tickets, subject to availability, go on sale 30 minutes before Wed. and Sun. performances. Group discounts: \$2 per ticket for groups of 10 or more.

Information: www.StageWestlowa.com or 515.309.0251
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