

August 2016

Letters (1979): Article 02

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_l_42

Recommended Citation

"Letters (1979): Article 02" (2016). *Letters (1979)*. Paper 21.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_l_42/21https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_l_42/21

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Letters (1979) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

Diana ...
...

Background on
A CHORUS LINE/Moscow Art Theater Exchange

The New York Shakespeare Festival's production of A CHORUS LINE is scheduled for an eight week tour of Moscow, Kiev, and Leningrad, beginning on April 1, 1980, just prior to the Olympic Games. Simultaneously, the world renowned Russian company will open on Broadway for four weeks, moving on to Boston and then to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. for two weeks each. The company will perform for of the best works in its repertoire - opening with Chekhov's IVANOV starring Oleg Yfremov, the Moscow Art Theater's leading actor, followed by a new production of Chekhov's THE SEAGULL and two contemporary works by the late Soviet playwright Vam Pilov.

The landmark musical A CHORUS LINE, is an extraordinary product of the American musical theater. It is the recipient of nine Tony Awards, the New York Drama Critics' Award, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It has just completed its fourth year on Broadway and its two touring companies have played throughout the United States, Europe, Canada and Australia.

The plan for this unprecedented exchange came about in early May during Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Papp's visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of Vassily Sitnikov, Vice President of V.A.A.P., the Soviet copyright agency. Robert Kamlot, the Festival's General Manager, has completed a trip to appraise theaters in the USSR and negotiate contractual arrangements with Gosconcert. All major issues have been resolved and the completed contract is currently under review pending signatures.

In addition, preliminary discussions are underway with cultural representatives in Vienna, Tel Aviv and Warsaw regarding the possible extension of the tour to these cities.

Against this background of the SALT talks and the upcoming Olympic Games in Moscow, the launching of this unprecedented theatrical exchange assumes even greater significance. As a mirror of American values, A CHORUS LINE is, among other things, about each dancer/actor's struggle to preserve individuality and achieve recognition and success. Its impact on Soviet audiences is likely to be overwhelming since nothing remotely similar is available in the Soviet theater.

COSTS OF A CHORUS LINE/MOSCOW ART THEATRE EXCHANGE - SPRING, 1980

(Kiev-Moscow-Leningrad/New York-Boston-Washington)

A CHORUS LINE TO USSR

General Manager's trip	5,000
Technical survey team trip	10,000
Assembly of physical production for transfer to USSR	10,000
Shipping charges to Odessa and return from Leningrad	100,000
Casting and rehearsals	55,000
Round-trip transportation of creative personnel, company, staff and crew to USSR and return	80,000
Weekly operating expenses for 9 weeks (See separate schedule for breakdown.)	<u>540,000</u>

A CHORUS LINE COST: 800,000

MOSCOW ART THEATRE TO US

Internal transportation New York/Boston/Washington	20,000
\$20.00 per diem each member Moscow Art Theatre	70,000
Hotel bills	112,000
Publicity and advertising	200,000
Local staff (press agents, company managers, local stagehands, interpreters, etc.)	58,000
Take-in and take-out costs, hanging, focusing and lighting in New York, Boston, Washington	120,000
Theater costs: New York, Boston, Washington	<u>180,000</u>

MOSCOW ART THEATRE COST: 760,000

TOTAL COST	<u>1,560,000</u>
LESS ESTIMATED BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS NEW YORK, BOSTON, WASHINGTON	<u>560,000</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE RAISED	<u>1,000,000</u>

R.Kamlot/August 2, 1979

NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

"A CHORUS LINE" - TOUR OF U.S.S.R.

WEEKLY OPERATING EXPENSES

SALARIES:

Cast	19,000
Stage Managers	2,300
General, Company and Assistant Managers	2,500
Stagehands	6,200
Wardrobe and wigs	1,400
Musicians	4,800
	<u>36,200</u>

ROYALTIES:

Authors, Composer, Lyricist, Directors/ Choreographers, Designers, Producer (N.Y.S.F.)	10,000
	<u>10,000</u>

DEPARTMENTALS:

Theater departments	1,500
Wardrobe	700
Rentals	800
	<u>3,000</u>

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE:

Auditing	300
Insurance	1,000
Payroll taxes	3,000
Fringe benefits	4,500
Accrued vacation pay	1,000
Repair, maintenance and miscellaneous	1,000
	<u>10,800</u>

WEEKLY OPERATING EXPENSES: 60,000

R. Kamlot/August 2, 1979