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‘Fiddler on the Roof’ Returning to Broadway (In Case You Missed It the 5 Previous Times)

By PATRICK HEALY

“Fiddler on the Roof,” one of the most frequently revived musicals on Broadway, will have its fifth revival in the fall of 2015 under the direction of the Tony Award winner Bartlett Sher (“South Pacific”), the producers Jeffrey Richards and Jerry Frankel announced on Thursday.

No casting was announced, but Mr. Sher has had informal discussions with the Broadway veteran Danny Burstein about playing the lead role of Tevye, a poor Orthodox Jew with five daughters in 1905 Russia. Mr. Burstein earned Tony nominations in Mr. Sher’s productions of “Golden Boy” and “South Pacific,” and also played one of his many comical roles in Mr. Sher’s Broadway musical “Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown.”

A representative for Mr. Burstein confirmed that the role had been discussed but said no offer had been made. Mr. Richards, asked about Mr. Burstein, said the producers had not even hired a casting director for “Fiddler” yet and predicted “there will be a lot of interest in so many of the roles.”

“Fiddler” opened on Broadway in 1964 to critical acclaim and won nine Tonys, including ones for best musical, best composer and lyricist (Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick), book (Joseph Stein), and best direction and choreography (both for Jerome Robbins).

The musical ran for eight years, the longest run in Broadway history at the time. But it has never come close to that level of success again: short-lived revivals opened on Broadway in 1976, 1981, and 1990. The most recent revival opened in 2004 and ran for two years, starring Alfred Molina and then Harvey Fierstein. Only a few shows have been revived more often on Broadway, such “Show Boat” and versions of “Porgy and Bess.”

The revival, which will be based on original conceptions and choreography by Robbins, will feature choreography by Hofesh Shechter, an Israeli-born artist who now has his own dance company in Britain that performs regularly at international festivals and theaters. No theater for the revival was announced.

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