THE ROUND BARN THEATRE CELEBRATES
THE 25TH SEASON OF PLAIN & FANCY

One of the Longest Running Musicals of all Time

NAPPANEE, Indiana—April, 14, 2011—The Round Barn Theatre at Amish Acres is celebrating its 25th anniversary of Plain and Fancy which opens May 28 and runs through October 22. With over 3,600 performances before audiences totaling 355,000, it's become one of the longest running musicals of all time.

Plain and Fancy is a heartwarming tale of a sophisticated New York couple that experiences a glimpse of life and love on an Amish farm. Written by Joseph Stein, Plain and Fancy opened on Broadway in 1955 where it ran for 462 performances and won a Tony Award for best musical. Since then, The Round Barn Theatre has become its national home with more performances than the original Broadway runs of Hello Dolly!, My Fair Lady, Oklahoma, South Pacific, The Sound of Music, and The Music Man and only 200 fewer performance Fiddler on the Roof, also authored by Stein.

More than 500 actors have performed Plain and Fancy since its debut at Amish Acres in 1986 where it was played with only four actors and a single piano on a tiny stage in a constructed replica of the old Locke Township Meeting House. It played for seven seasons on the tiny stage before moving to The Round Barn Theatre constructed in 1991. From that beginning, The Round Barn Theatre has grown into a major regional theatre. The characters of Papa Yoder and Peter Raber were first played by Dennis McKeen, who is now a successful actor, producer, and playwright. To commemorate the 25th anniversary, The Round Barn Theatre begins its repertory season April 14 with a musical comedy written by McKeen, called The Old Rugged Cross, that takes place in churchyard
park where people from many walks of life cross paths. The storyline is complemented with traditional gospel songs and familiar tunes.

Several former cast members have gone onto to star on Broadway and international tours since their time at Amish Acres. Perry Ojeda starred in the 1998 revival of Leonard Bernstein’s *On the Town*; Jerry O’Boyle has starred as Edna Turnblad in the international tour of *Hair Spray* for the last three years; and Kent Lewis recently performed in the Broadway in Chicago production of *Billy Elliot* and is in the current run in Toronto. Among others, Laura Freeman has become a fixture on the Chicago stage and cabaret circuit and is currently featured in *Sentimental Journey: The Music Of Doris Day* at the Wilmette Theatre and Maxim's in Chicago.

Amish Acres will host a reunion of former cast members on Saturday, July 16, in conjunction with Joseph Stein Young Actors Studio children's camp when campers will perform in the main stage matinee performance of *Plain and Fancy* and returning actors will join in for an encore of the show's signature songs. A museum display of *Plain and Fancy* will be on display in the theatre lobby that weekend and lecture/luncheon will be held at 11:00 a.m. on July 16. A commemorative booklet and T-shirts will also be available.

This milestone anniversary season is chocked full of Broadway favorites, off-Broadway hits, and new works. Following *The Old Rugged Cross* and running in repertory with *Plain and Fancy* will be *Hello, Dolly!, Ring of Fire, Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming, The Odd Couple* and for the holidays *Tis the Season, A Holiday Spectacular* and *A Christmas Carol* along with a series of musical concerts.

The season is dedicated to *Plain and Fancy* author Joseph Stein, friend and mentor of The Round Barn Theatre and for whom the theatre stage is named, who died in October 2010 at the age of 98. A memorial fund has been established to extend the influence of the Joseph Stein Young Actors Studio which presents theatre for young audience productions as well as summer acting camps, national touring children's productions, and now free season tickets for kids at Amish Acres.
The eclectic mix offered by The Round Barn Theatre makes it Northern Indiana's busiest stage with a season subscription base numbering in the thousands. It has produced over 90 main stage musicals, numerous second stage readings, dramas, and a slate of theatre for young audience productions. "We owe all of our vibrancy as a regional theatre to the trust and encouraging support of our season subscribers," stated founder and producer Richard Pletcher.

The 2011 repertory season runs April 14 through December 31 with 2:00 p.m. matinees and 8:00 p.m. evening performances. Season tickets remain on sale for only $119.95 for adults and children 4-11 are free with the purchase of an adult season ticket. A complete show schedule, ticket availability, and reservations can be obtained by calling the Box Office at 800-800-4942 ext. 2 or online at www.amishacres.com. Theatre tickets can be combined with Amish Acres famous family style Threshers Dinner or a Theme Dinner served on select Friday nights at a savings. Theme Dinner seating is limited and reservations must be made in advance at The Round Barn Theatre box office.

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