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Public Relations

## THEO BIKEL

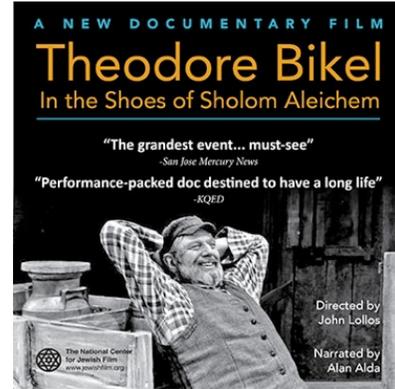
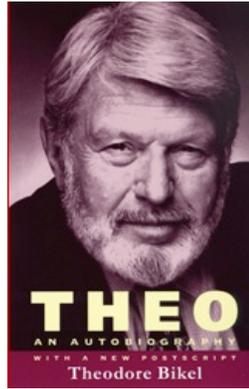
Celebrates 90 and 75 years in Show Business  
with a New Edition of his memoir,  
the release of 20 Albums on iTunes and  
the theatrical release of

**“Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem”**

## RELEASE

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*“To be with him is to be in the presence of greatness.”—Ed Asner*

Nonagenarian, **Theodore Bikel**, recently celebrated his 75-year in show business. Few have garnered such distinguished recognition in music, film, literature and stage. With the recent “New Edition” release of his memoirs, Rhino Records and Warner Music is releasing his records to iTunes and the highly anticipated release of **“Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem”** (co-written and performed by Theo Bikel and based on Sholom Aleichem’s writings from the immortal musical “Fiddler On The Roof”), now being screened on the festival circuit and to be release theatrical early next year. In addition, Theo is schedule to appear as Keynote speaker at the St Louis Jewish Book fair on opening night, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**“Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem”** combines Bikel's charismatic storytelling and masterful performances with a broader exploration of shalom Aleichem's remarkable life and work. A pioneer of modern Jewish literature who championed and luxuriated in the Yiddish language, Sholom Aleichem created dozens of indelible characters. His Tevye the Milkman, Motl the Cantor's Son, and Menachem Mendl--"shtetl Jews" for whom humor and pathos were two sides of the same Yiddish coin--remain invaluable windows into pre-war Eastern European Jewish life, real and imagined. Portraits of two beloved icons--Sholom Aleichem and Theodore Bikel--are woven together in this enchanting new documentary. The two men have much in common: wit, wisdom and talent, all shot through with deep humanity and *Yiddishkeit*.

The scheduled festival screenings of **“Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem”** (co-written, and performed by Theo Bikel) include the **Haifa International Film Festival**, **Orange County Jewish Film Festival** (Oct), **Australia Jewish Film Festival in Sydney & Melbourne** (12 screenings Oct-Nov), **Warsaw Jewish Film Festival** (Nov), **Sedona International Film Festival** (Nov). 2015 screenings include **Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival** (Feb), **San Diego Jewish Film Festival** (Feb), **Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival** (Feb), **Boulder Jewish Film Festival** (March), **Hartford Jewish Film Festival** (March), **East Bay Jewish Film Festival** (March), **American Jewish University** (May), **Sedona International Film Festival** (Nov 8-11), **Spertus Institute** in Chicago (Dec), and **Washington D.C. Jewish Film Festival** (Feb 21 - March 1).

Continued ...

**AUTHOR:** In his newly released edition of “Theo: An Autobiography,” celebration Bikel’s ninth decade, he looks back at his life as an activist for civil rights and progressive causes worldwide, and a singer whose voice has won him great applause. A compelling life story, that practically requires a passport to read, Theo was born in Austria, raised in Palestine, educated in England, and with a stellar career in the United States and around the world. Bikel offers a personal history parallel to momentous events of the twentieth century. In an eloquent, fiercely committed voice, he writes of the Third Reich, the birth of the State of Israel, the McCarthy witch-hunts of the 1950s, the tumultuous 1960s in America, and events in the Middle East.



**BROADWAY:** Best known for playing the role of Tevye on Broadway and elsewhere over 2,000 times—more than any other actor, he also created the role of Captain von Trapp on Broadway in the *Sound of Music* where the song “Edelweiss” was written for him to sing. He performed in over 35 stage productions in venues from Broadway to Israel to London’s West End.

**SILVER SCREEN:** Theodore Bikel, the unstoppable performer whose career spans more than 150 screen roles (including an Oscar-nominated turn in *The Defiant Ones*) Theo made his film debut in the “African Queen” in 1951. From the Southern sheriff in “The Defiant Ones” (Oscar nomination), to the submarine captain in “The Russians are Coming,” to the Hungarian linguist in “My Fair Lady” he acted in over 30 major films.



**TELEVISION:** Mr. Bikel’s television career spans 35 years. His roles on TV cover an amazing range of characterizations: from a Scottish policeman in Alfred Hitchcock Presents to Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar, to Henry Kissinger in *The Final Days* and the role which earned him his Emmy Award in 1988 for his role as the 82-year old Harris Newmark. He also played the German butcher infatuated with Edith Bunker in “All in the Family”

**RECORDING ARTIST:** Theo has recorded 37 albums—over 20 on the Elektra label. Considered one of the founding fathers of American folk music he has sung with Pete Seeger and the Weavers and is responsible for the establishment of world folk music, singing and recording songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino and Russian. This past summer, all of Theo’s records on Elektra- with whom he had so many best selling albums - have been re-released by Rhino records and Warner music and are now available for download on iTunes. Theo’s fan mail is showing a diversity of generations, who appear to be enjoying Theo’s music individually and together.



Friends have defined Theo, as the ultimate Renaissance man. He is compassionate, philanthropic, principled and an advocate for justice. Theo marched with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King and was president of Actors Equity, Sr VP of the AJC, Board Member of Amnesty International and a member of the National Council on the Arts. Theo’s inspiration instills a love of justice, Judaism, music and the arts in us all.

For more information about Theodore Bikel, please visit: <http://www.bikel.com/>

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