

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

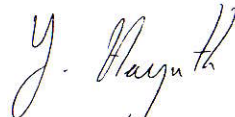
**Humanitarian Award of Merit**

is hereby presented to

**Chaim Topol**

for his artistic achievements as an actor, for his contribution to Israeli and Jewish culture in Israel and its dissemination abroad, and for his friendship toward the University of Haifa.

22 Iyyar 5760 / May 27, 2000



**Prof. Yehuda Hayuth**

President

## Chaim Topol

Born in Tel Aviv (1935), Chaim Topol began his acting career while in the army. After his discharge, he returned to his kibbutz, where he founded a satirical theater, The Spring Onion, which later became The Popular Theatre.

In 1960, he founded the Haifa Municipal Theater, where he played Petruccio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Azdak in Brecht's *Chalk Circle*, Jean in Eunesco's *Rhinoceros*, and key roles in, among others, *Rashomon*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *The Hostage*, and *Andorra*.

Topol's film debut came with the Israeli comedy *I Like Mike*, which was followed by the award-winning *Sallah*. Producer Hal Prince remembered Topol's performance of the elderly, roguish Sallah when it came to casting the London production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Topol became an international star, going on to star in Norman Jewison's film of the same name, receiving an Oscar nomination, and winning a Golden Globe Award. He can also add these trophies: a second Golden Globe Award, the Italian Oscar, the David Donaiello Award, Man of the Year of Great Britain, Best Actor in the San Sebastian Film Festival, two Harp of David Awards, and a Tony Award nomination as Best Actor on Broadway.

Apart from appearing in five (so far) *Fiddler on the Roof* revivals, Topol has appeared at the Chichester Festival Theatre in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Romanoff and Juliet*, and *Othello*. He toured with *A View from the Bridge* around Great Britain and with *The Baker's Wife* around the United States.

His many film appearances include *Cast a Giant Shadow*, *Before Winter Comes*, *For Your Eyes Only*, *The Rooster*, *Ervinka*, *Sallah*, *The Public Eye*, *Galileo*, *The House on Garibaldi Street*, *Flash Gordon*, and more recently *A Dime Novel*, *Queenie*, and *Left Luggage*. Topol starred in the BBC television series "It's Topol" and "Topol's Israel" as well as in television versions of *Winds of War*, *War and Remembrance*, and *Seaquest*.

*Topol by Topol*, his autobiography, was published in London by Weidenfeld and Nicholson. He himself has illustrated some twenty books. Recently he both compiled and illustrated *Topol's Treasury of Jewish Humour*, *Wit*, and *Wisdom*, published by Robson Books in London.

Topol and his wife Galia have three children. He divides his time between Israel and London.

