

RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

OCTOBER 18 - NOVEMBER 9, 2024

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Professional Touring Artist Series

CURTIS BANNISTER

presents "Jantelagen" with pianist Mark Markham

the CenterStage at Reston Community Center

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Reston: \$15
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Wednesday
November 6
8:00 p.m.

Curtis Bannister, the 2021 Actors Equity Association Roger Sturtevant Award recipient, and nominee for a 2021 Drama League Award, presents a program encompassing the Swedish cultural concept of Jantelagen, which translates to a focus on collective unity and humility over praise of the individual. Curtis performs a program including songs from the American Songbook, American pop and R&B songs, classical art songs and musical theatre. Recent credits include his debut in Bernstein's "Candide" featured in the film, "Maestro," opposite Bradley Cooper and Carey Mulligan; concert appearances with Heather Headley; and his debut in Bernstein's "MASS," which was presented in the Kennedy Center's 50th Anniversary season.

"Bannister's strikingly sensuous body language throughout this production is as seductive as his voice." —Herald Journal

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 58th Season of the Reston Community Players!

This season at RCP, we're celebrating family! Whether we're talking about Tevye and Golde's daughters and their suitors, or a ragtag collection of couples using a Vegas wedding chapel, or the family that Max, Leo, Ulla, Roger, and Carmen form in 1950s New York City, we're exploring all of the glorious shapes and sizes of families: both the biological and the just plain logical.

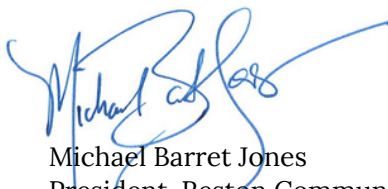
Two of our productions this year also highlight periods of our history where autocratic leaders have denied the basic humanity of people in their care, predominantly Jewish populations, but also LGBTQ+ people, people with a disability, and other ethnic and cultural groups. These leaders (and their followers) continue exist around the world today, and we still counter them with activism, anger, humor (could Mel Brooks have written some of the Rabbi's lines in Fiddler? I think so!), and the strength of our families and the communities they make up.

RCP is also a family, and we hope you – our audiences – feel much the same way. My focus as president is simple: I want artists that come back again and again, and audiences that do the same. Tonight, you'll see many cast and crew members from last season returning to our stage, many in different roles, and later this season, Kim Leone and Andy Regiec return to the RCP director's chair. If you'd like to return later this season, it's not too late to pick up a subscription and join us for all the fun.

If you're looking to get involved with all RCP has to offer, we always need volunteers to help put on these productions, and we're always having auditions to discover more wonderful, local talent.

RCP is here for you, and we love hearing from our audience! Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have comments, concerns, or compliments.

We're here for our family.



Michael Barret Jones
President, Reston Community Players
President@restonplayers.org



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RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

BASED ON SHOLEM ALEICHEM STORIES BY SPECIAL PERMISSION OF ARNOLD PERL

BOOK BY

MUSIC BY

LYRICS BY

JOSEPH STEIN JERRY BOCK SHELDON HARNICK

PRODUCED ON THE NEW YORK STAGE BY HAROLD PRINCE

**ORIGINAL NEW YORK STAGE PRODUCTION
DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED
BY JEROME ROBBINS**

Fiddler on the Roof is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

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Reston Community Players is funded in part by



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to our production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, a story that has captivated audiences for decades with its rich tapestry of tradition, change, and resilience. At its heart, this musical is a deeply human story, but it is also profoundly tied to the particular experiences of Jewish identity. Set in the fictional village of Anatevka, the tale of Tevye and his family speaks to the enduring struggle of a Jewish community striving to maintain its cultural and religious identity in the face of external pressures and internal transformations.

The Jewish identity of *Fiddler on the Roof* is not merely a backdrop; it is the pulse that drives the narrative. Tevye's devotion to "Tradition!" is a reflection of the historical importance of maintaining Jewish customs, values, and beliefs through centuries of exile, persecution, and displacement. For the Jewish community, tradition is not just a connection to the past, but a means of survival—a way to preserve a sense of self and community in an often hostile world.

As we explored the world of Anatevka in rehearsals, our cast and creative team were struck by how relevant this story remains today. The challenges that Tevye and his family face—adapting to modernity, surviving antisemitism, and striving to find meaning in a world full of contradictions—are struggles that echo throughout history and still feel urgent now.

This production is the result of a collaborative and passionate effort by our entire cast, crew, and creative team, who have worked tirelessly to bring the vibrancy and depth of Anatevka to life. We hope that you are moved, challenged, and uplifted by this story, and that it encourages you to reflect on the role of tradition and change in your own life. We wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to those who provided thoughtful and invaluable research on the Jewish faith, particularly Jerry Morse, David Katz, Larry Finkel, Harry Kantorvich, and those who wish to remain anonymous. Their guidance has greatly enriched and deepened our understanding of this production.

Thank you for joining us for this performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*. It is our hope that, like the fiddler perched precariously on his roof, we all learn to balance the fragile elements of our own lives with both wisdom and joy.

Christine Marie, Director

CAST

Tevye, the Dairyman	Steve Cairns
Golde, his wife	Melanie Rider
Tzeitel, their daughter.....	Rachel Donders
Hodel, their daughter.....	McKinley Seale
Chava, their daughter.....	Abigail Atwater
Shprintze, their daughter.....	Olivia Daugherty
Bielke, their youngest daughter.....	Grace Hamer
Yente, the Matchmaker.....	Kate Keifer
Motel, the Tailor.....	Thomas Wilson
Perchik, the Student.....	Christian Rodgers
Lazar Wolf, the Butcher.....	Erik Black
Mordcha, the Innkeeper	Jack Dixon
The Rabbi.....	Larry Finkel
Mendel, his son.....	Joshua Paul McCreary
Avram, the Bookseller	Chris Woidka
Nachum, the Beggar.....	Andrew Morin
Grandma Tzeitel/Mirala.....	Jennifer Levy
Fruma Sarah/Rivka.....	Melanie Kurstin
Constable.....	Anthony Pohl
Fyedka.....	Jeff Mouritzen
Sasha, Fyedka's friend.....	Jordan Kazemi
Shaindel, Motel's mother.....	Cathy Gurson
The Fiddler.....	Chet Bliss and Lewis Bliss

Ensemble

The Villagers

Chaim, the Fishmonger.....	Alexander Colon
Yussel, the Hatmaker.....	Kurt Gustafson
Shloime, the Bagel Man.....	John Norquist
Any.....	Jennifer Reynolds
Duvidel, the Seltzer Man.....	Jordan Kazemi
Vladimir (To Life Soloist).....	Alexander Colon

Understudies: Alexander Colon (Tevye), Cathy Gurson (Golde),
Joshua McCreary (Lazar Wolf).

DESIGN & PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Michael Barret Jones
Co-Producer	Molly Atwater-Pulisc
Assistant Producer.....	Brian Dittmeier
Director	Christine Marie
Music Director.....	Steve McBride
Vocal Coach.....	Alexandra Chace
Choreographer.....	Philip Smith-Cobbs*
Dance Captains.....	Jordan Kazemi & McKinley Seale
Stage Manager.....	Kaiti Parish
Assistant Stage Manager.....	David Katz
Running Crew Chief.....	Alex Parish
Running Crew.....	Diane Cieslak, Jacquelyn Duval, Patrick Hammes, Sean Jeffers, Mai Le, Thomas Pulisc, John Turner
Cultural Advisor.....	Jerry Morse
Technical Director.....	Sara Birkhead
Stage Combat Choreographer.....	Ian Claar
Fight Captain.....	Joshua Paul McCreary
Set Designer	Anna Mintz
Master Carpenter	Sara Birkhead
Set Construction Crew.....	Sai Karthik Abburu, Molly Atwater-Pulisc, Rich Bird, Scott Birkhead, Jacquelyn Duval, Nikko Elliott, Patrick Hammes, Sean Jeffers, Francis Koscieszo, Mai Le, Liz Mykiety, Kayla Ortiz, Alex Parish, Thomas Pulisc, Nicolas Queyrane, Tim Skjerseth, Dan Widerski
Scenic Paint Designer	Cathy Rieder
Scenic Painters.....	Liz Mykiety
Set Decoration Design.....	Liz Mykiety
Properties Designer.....	Mary Jo Ford
Properties Crew.....	Alecia Nault & Mary Louise Tunget
Light Design.....	Ken & Patti Crowley
Master Electrician.....	Ben Archie
Light Board Operator.....	Cecilia Hilliard
Follow Spot Operators.....	Brian Altmiller & Adrian Steel
Sound Designer	Elizabeth Shaher
Sound Crew.....	Brian Altmiller & Alex Bhargava
Costume Design.....	Eva Thorpe
Costume Team.....	Clara Hoch, Lisa Leary
Hair & Makeup Designer	Ryan Kincade
Graphic Design.....	Joey Olson
Photographer.....	Heather Regan
Playbill.....	Liz Colandene & Michael Barret Jones
House Management.....	Weston Weber

*Jerome Robbins' Original Choreography Reproduced by Philip Smith-Cobbs

SETTING/SYNOPSIS

The Place: Anatevka, a small village in Russia
The Time: 1905, On the eve of the Russian Revolutionary
Period

ACT ONE

Prologue

Tradition.....Tevye, Golde, Sons, Daughters and Ensemble

Scene 1. Kitchen in Tevye's House

Matchmaker....Hodel, Chava, and Tzeitel

Scene 2. Exterior of Tevye's House

If I Were a Rich Man.....Tevye

Scene 3. Interior of Tevye's House

Sabbath Prayer...Tevye, Golde and Ensemble

Scene 4. The Inn

To Life....Tevye, Lazar Wolf, Villagers and Russians

Scene 5. The Street Outside the Inn

Scene 6. On a Bench Outside Tevye's House

Tevye's Monologue.....Tevye

Miracle of Miracles....Motel

Scene 7. Tevye's Bedroom

The Dream...Grandma Tzeitel, Rabbi, Tevye, Golde, Fruma-Sarah, Ensemble

Scene 8. Village Street and Motel's Tailor Shop

Scene 9. Section of Tevye's Yard

Sunrise, Sunset...Tevye, Golde, Perchik, Hodel, Ensemble

Wedding Dances.....Ensemble

SETTING/SYNOPSIS

ACT TWO

Prologue

Scene 1. Exterior of Tevye's House

Now I Have Everything....Perchik, Hodel
Tevye's Rebuttal...Tevye
Do You Love Me?...Tevye, Golde

Scene 2. Village Street

The Rumor...Yente, Rivka, Mirala, Mendel, Avram, Villagers

Scene 3. Exterior of a Railroad Station

Far from the Home I Love....Hodel

Scene 4. Village Street

Scene 5. Motel's Tailor Shop

Scene 6. Somewhere on the Outskirts of the Village

Chava Sequence...Tevye, Ensemble

Scene 7. The Barn

Anatevka....Golde, Tevye, Yente, Lazar, Mendel, Avram, Ensemble

Scene 8. Outside Tevye's House

Special Thanks

Debi Carroll
Kimberly Leone
Melinda
Bea Morse
Pied Piper Theatre
Andy Regiec
Sterling Playmakers
Swanson Laser Engraving
Justin Streletz

PUTTING FIDDLER ON THE ROOF IN ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Sholem Aleichem (1859 - 1916) - -born Solomon Naumovich Rabinovich - - was an author and playwright who has often been called the Yiddish Mark Twain. Early in his career while serving as "a state-appointed clerical functionary" in a small community in the Ukraine, Rabinovich published a satirical account of politics in St. Petersburg and signed it "Sholem Aleichem." which translated means "Hello There." Sholem Aleichem was one of many pseudonyms that he used over the years until 1894, the year that he published *Tevye, the Dairyman*, which is the source material for *Fiddler on the Roof*. After this publication, Sholem Aleichem became his exclusive pen name.

Since peasants in villages all across the country did not have the means to purchase the magazines and books in which Sholem Aleichem's writings appeared, he traveled the countryside stopping in village after village to read his stories. His village visits were events much anticipated by the villagers who would have "rolled out the red carpet" to welcome him had there been one.

Sholem Aleichem's humor demanded that his readers take their lives seriously. "The laughter his work evoked was not that of contempt, embarrassment,, ...relief, or even of sympathy, but rather of identification and acceptance." Addressing his readers, Sholem Aleichem said "You who have been through all this...and who know that such are our lives and that no amount of self-delusion can make them less so -- you who have experienced fear, ...humiliation, despair and defeat and are aware that there is more yet to come...you to whom all this has happened and who still have been able to laugh...you need no consolation, because you have already prevailed..."

**BOTH ARTICLES ON THESE PAGES ARE
EXCERPTED FROM LONGER PIECES WRITTEN
BY JERRY MORSE, RCP'S CULTURAL ADVISOR
TO THIS PRODUCTION OF FIDDLER ON THE
ROOF. THE FULL ARTICLES CAN BE FOUND AT
WWW.RESTONPLAYERS.ORG/PASTSHOWS**



How *Fiddler on the Roof* Got Its Name

from an essay by Jerry Morse



THE FIDDLER, 1913, MARC CHAGALL

The show's Director/Choreographer Jerome Robbins, born Jerome Wilson Rabinowitz, was introduced to the work of French/Russian painter Marc Chagall as a boy on a trip to visit his grandparents in Russia. In 1958, while in Europe, Robbins took a detour to his grandparents' shtetl in Russia. He found that the entire Jewish population had been wiped out by the Holocaust. There was nothing left. "To realize this was gone forever...this affected him greatly," noted Harold Prince, the show's producer.

When he took on the job as the show's Director/Choreographer, Robbins recalled Chagall's oil painting titled *The Fiddler*. The artwork depicts a violinist with a green face fiddling with his instrument on a rooftop in Vitebsk, Belarus. The painting incorporates elements of Judaism and Christianity and hints at Chagall's upbringing in the Chasidic Jewish community.

Robbins drew inspiration from Chagall's paintings and from his 1958 visit to his grandparents' shtetl "in terms of the emotional tone of the (show) as well as its scenic design by Boris Aronson. Aronson painted villagers' homes in the sky...as an homage to Chagall...But it's also where the musical found its title." The painting, *The Fiddler*," says Sheldon Harnick, the show's lyricist and songwriter, "was of a man playing a violin and he's standing...actually just a bit above a roof, but he looks like he's standing on it...that picture fascinated us, and one of us suggested it as a title *Fiddler on the Roof*."

The title character in the musical, the fiddler on the roof, is a metaphor for the precarious balance that the main character, Tevye, must strike between his Jewish traditions and the changing world around him. The fiddler represents the idea of the importance of hanging on to one's cultural heritage, even in the face of adversity and change.

The Orchestra

Conductor.....	Steve McBride
Violin.....	Rebekah Givens
Cello.....	Pam Clem
Bass.....	Jared Creason
Reed 1.....	Teresa Harris
Reed 2.....	Justin Baughman
Trumpet 1.....	Jack Dusek
Trumpet 2.....	John Paganelli
Trombone.....	Ben Green
Synth Strings.....	Joe Faber
Accordion.....	Matt Scarborough
Guitar.....	Robert LaRose
Percussion.....	Laura Moniuszko

WATCH* THEATRE REFERENCE GUIDE

ACCT	Aldersgate Church Community Theatre	ASGT	Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre
BCT	Bowie Community Theatre	CFTC	City of Fairfax Theatre Company
CPA	Colonial Players of Annapolis	CRT	Castaways Repertory Theatre
DTC	Damascus Theatre Company	DS	Dominion Stage
FCT	Fauquier Community Theatre	GAC	Greenbelt Arts Center
HBP	Hard Bargain Players	KAT	Kensington Arts Theatre
LMP	Laurel Mill Playhouse	LTA	Little Theatre of Alexandria
MCP	McLean Community Players	MP	Montgomery Playhouse
PPF	Providence Players of Fairfax	PTP	Port Tobacco Players
PWLT	Prince William Little Theatre	RCP	Reston Community Players
RLT	Rockville Little Theatre	RMT	Rockville Musical Theatre
RTP	Rooftop Productions	SMP	St. Mark's Players
SP	Sterling Playmakers	SSI	Silhouette Stages
SSP	Second Star Productions	SSS	Silver Spring Stage
TAP	The Arlington Players	VLOC	Victorian Lyric Opera Company

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MEET THE CAST



ABBY ATWATER



ERIK BLACK



STEVE CAIRNS



ALEXANDER COLÓN



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JACK DIXON



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GRACE HAMER



JORDAN KAZEMI

MEET THE CAST



KATE KEIFER



JENNIFER LEVY



ANDREW MORIN



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MEET THE CAST

Abigail Atwater (Chava) is so excited to be making her RCP debut! Some of her favorite roles have included Cinderella in *Into The Woods*, Anya in *Anastasia*, Elle in *Legally Blonde*, Little Sally in *Urinetown*, and Tilly in *She Kills Monsters*. Special thanks to her husband Bennett, her family, and her friends for supporting her along the way!

Erik Black (Lazar Wolf) has appeared locally as Simeon in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (Pickwick Players). He is making his debut with RCP. He began an MFA in Theater at UW-Madison and serves our country as a diplomat for the past two decades. Favorite roles include Tevye, Captain Von Trapp in *Sound of Music*, Frankincense in *Seven Brides*, Duke of Venice in *Othello*, and 10 roles in *Greater Tuna*. He is a proud father of five children and a new grandpa this summer.

Steve Cairns (Tevye) is excited to be making his RCP debut with *Fiddler on the Roof*! Steve has performed throughout the MD/VA/DC area and has been seen as Mr Feldzig in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (WT), Max Bialystok in *The Producers* (LTA) where he was nominated for a WATCH award for Best Actor in a Musical, Shrek in *Shrek the Musical* (MST), Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Agatha Trunchbull in *Matilda* and Selsdon in *Noises Off* (OVT), and as Eddie in *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (MET). Steve wants to thank Erica and his wonderful kids for their love and support.

Alexander Colón (Chaim, Russian Tenor, Tevye U/S) is no stranger to the magic that comes from an RCP production and is thrilled to be back sharing the stage with this incredibly talented cast! You may have seen him recently proclaiming his love for his dead gay son in *Heathers the Musical* (MCP), and in the show that broke a 20-year hiatus from the stage, *The Prom* (RCP). Alex thanks his family and his friends for the love, support, and encouragement to pursue his passions unapologetically!

Olivia Daugherty (Shprintze) is excited to make her debut with RCP! A student at SLHS, class of 2026, she played "The Child" in the VHSL one-act play "Drum Taps," based on Walt Whitman's Civil War poems, earning the Concorde District Best Actor and Northern Region All Star Cast awards. Olivia has been in the ensemble casts for SLHS's *Sleepy Hollow* and *Big Fish*, and LHMS's *Wizard of Oz*. She thanks her family and friends for their love and support, and her theater teacher, Mr. Viola, for encouraging her passion for theater.

Jack Dixon (Mordcha) is excited to join the cast of *Fiddler on the Roof*! This is Jack's second show with RCP, having played the role of Brian in *Avenue Q* last year. His other notable role in the NOVA area is Marcellus in *Music Man* (Sterling Playmakers), and has participated in various ensemble, pit, and tech roles throughout the years. He is thankful for friends and family, and his beloved wife Mary for their continuous support!

Rachel Donders (Tzeitel) is thrilled to return to the RCP stage! Rachel has most recently been seen in RCP's production of *The Prom* (Youth Ensemble/Godspell Cast). Some of her favorite roles include Fred in *Once Upon a Mattress* and Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*. Rachel is incredibly grateful for the love and magic the creative team and cast here at RCP has shown and for welcoming her with open arms. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support.

Larry Finkel (Rabbi) is delighted you are here and delighted to be in this classic Show, his Reston debut. Recent performances include *Evita* (ensemble) and featured roles in *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Fauquier Community Theatre) and the World Premiere of *Shoah* for which he was nominated for a DC Watch Award. He has performed in dramas, comedies and musicals with several Virginia community theatre groups in the last 10 years. May you all be blessed!

Cathy Gurson (Shaindel, Golde U/S) simply loves to put on great shows with her talented friends! First time on stage with RCP but no stranger to the theater. Current credits: mom, nurse, cyclist, mass consumer of romance novels. Previous credits: Sarah McKay (*Laughing Stock*, SP), Sterndale (*Sherlock Holmes*, SP), behind the scenes for *Prom* (RCP) & *Monday, Honk!* (SP), college a cappella, Charlottesville Black Box Players (CBBP): Rizzo (*Grease*), Jack's Mother (*ITW*), Gilmer (*Godspell*). All her love to her wife and her two best boys for their constant love, support, and silliness.

Kurt Gustafson (Yussel) This represents Kurt's debut acting role with RCP. Some of his past notable roles with PWLT include Capt. Walker in *Tommy*, Mr. Bundles in *Annie*, General Merrin/Dr Heinrich Geuter in *Judgement at Nuremberg* and Admiral Schrieber in *Sound of Music*. He was Franz Suchomel in FCT's *Shoah* and the Knife Seller/Ensemble in SP's *Oliver!* Thank you to the amazing RCP cast, musicians and crew. And lastly, thanks to my family and our turtle, Leonardo. I couldn't do this without your love and support.

Grace Hamer (Bielke) is thrilled to be making her RCP debut in the role of Bielke. She previously sang, acted and was thrown by her pigtails in the role of Amanda Thripp in *Matilda* with Theatre@CBT in Potomac, MD. Grace has sung solos and acted in the musicals *Once Upon a Parable* and *Good Kings Come in Small Packages* at her church, played the Fairy Godmother in a short musical production of "Cinderella", and is the veteran of many theatre camps and courses. She would like to thank RCP for this amazing opportunity!

Jordan Kazemi (Sasha, Duvidel) has appeared this year as a Featured Dancer and Ensemble member in *The Prom* (RCP) and *Anastasia* (Pickwick), and as Phineas Trout in *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* (SP). This is his second show with RCP. Jordan started performing locally just this year after more than 10 years away from the stage. He would like to thank his wife Roxana for her love and support. He can be found on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Kate Keifer (Yente) has been involved with RCP for more than 20 years last appearing onstage as Berthe in *Boeing Boeing*. Favorite onstage credits include Mrs. Meers in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (RCP), Amy in *Company* (MCP – WATCH nominee for Outstanding Featured Actress), Miss Andrew in *Mary Poppins* (RCP), and Jessica Crenshaw in *Curtains* (RCP – WATCH nominee for Outstanding Cameo). Behind the scenes, she has also produced and done costume design and set dressing for RCP and WT/WAC. Love to Steve, Jack, Jane and Olive and all of her #normalfriends. Viva!

Melanie Kurstin (Fruma Sarah) RCP Debut! Melanie was most recently seen as Mae in *Reefer Madness* (NS). Notable credits include NYC: *American Idiot* (Whatsername), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Yitzhak); REGIONAL: *Into the Woods* (Witch), *PUFFS* (Megan Jones), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Magenta), *Head Over Heels* (Mopsa), *Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Storyteller), *The Wild Party* (Kate). She also performed honoring Billy Joel at the 2014 Kennedy Center Honors. She dedicates this performance to the memory of her Mom-Mom who always instilled in her the joy of tradition and the Jewish spirit. Insta: @MelanieQuinn13

Jennifer Levy (Grandma Tzeitel) is delighted to be making her debut with RCP. She recently appeared as Sister Mary Theresa in *Sister Act* (LTA) and was a featured singer in cabaret productions at PFF and McLean Community Players (MCP). Other credits include *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Vienna Community Players), *Footloose* (MCP), *Calendar Girls* (MCP), *Guys and Dolls* (MCP), *Damn Yankees* (MCP), *Oliver!* (MCP), *Children of a Lesser God* (MCP) and *Life with Father* (MCP). She was also a featured performer with Hexagon for ten years.

Joshua Paul McCreary (Mendel, Lazar U/S) has appeared most recently with RCP as Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q* and Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. His other credits include Reuben in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (CFTC), Little Charles in *August Osage County* (PPF), and Guzman in *Lovers and Executioners* (PPF). He dedicates this performance to his greatest audition coach: his wife, and to everyone in this incredible cast who took this important story to heart. To Life!

Andrew Morin (Nachum) is excited to be appearing with RCP for the first time. Previous credits include *Much Ado About Theatre: Lightning Thief* (Chiron), *Matilda* (Trunchbull), *Newsies* (Pulitzer); *PWLT: 110 in the Shade, ...Starcatcher* (Slank), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Clarence), *9 to 5*, *Bat Boy* (Sheriff), *Tommy*; *CRT: Seussical* (General); *RTP: White Christmas*, *Christmas Chaos*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Elf* (Santa); *FCT: Evita*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Noises Off* (Freddy). He's originally from Maine, works as a software engineer and performs improv comedy with the Pundemics.

John Norquist (Shloime the bagel man) has appeared in *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Sound of Music* (SMP) and *HMS Pinafore* (TAP) but this is his first production in 20 years. He works for the Defense Department and in his spare time sings in his church choir. He sends love to his wife Gena, two children and three grandchildren.

Anthony Pohl (Constable) blames Michelina Pollini for getting him into this mess in the first place. For more than 20 years, he has said over and over and over again, "Anthony doesn't do musicals." But when a friend asks for help, you help them. AND LOOK WHERE THAT GOT HIM!! Ugh, whatever. Now, sit back, relax, and witness history as Anthony, for the first time ever, does a musical.

Jenn Reynolds (Ensemble) is excited to make her RCP stage debut in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She was last seen as Sister Mary Lazarus in the LTA production of *Sister Act: the Musical*. Other productions include *A Broadway Tribute* (BTG), *Our Town* (LAC), *The Tempest* (MVSS), and *Young Frankenstein: the Musical* (BTG). *Fiddler* has always been one of Jenn's favorites, and she hopes you enjoy the show! Break legs, cast and crew!



Melanie Rider (Golde) has appeared locally as Berthe in *Pippin* (TAP), Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* (TAP) and The Duchess in *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (TAP). (WATCH nom.) Other area roles include The Wicked Witch of the West in *Wizard of Oz* (Zemfira Stage), Rachel Lynde in *Anne of Green Gables* (ACCT), Dr. Gertrude Ladenberger in *33 Variations* (LTA) and Mrs. Cratchit, Mrs Fezziwig, and the Laundress in *A Christmas Carol* (LTA). She is beyond thrilled to be making her debut with the RCP! She would like to thank her wonderful husband Mike for his unending love and support and encouragement.

Christian Rodgers (Perchik) is thrilled to be returning to RCP after playing Kevin in *The Prom* this Spring. Other recent and notable credits include: Jack Morris in *Laughing Stock* (SP), Charlie Price in *Kinky Boots* (RTP), Princeton in *Avenue Q* (Authentic Community Theatre), and Younger Brother in *Ragtime* (SP). Christian would like to thank his family for their love and support and the wonderful theatre community he calls home. Instagram: @chranthony_rodgers

McKinley Seale (Hodel) was most recently seen on the RCP stage as Kaylee in *The Prom*! She is a proud graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts, where she earned her BFA in Musical Theatre, Minor in Dance. She has also been seen in the area as Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown* (SSP). McKinley would like to thank her family, Deniz, and the Fiddler team.

Thomas Wilson (Motel) is making his debut at with RCP. He has appeared locally as a child and teen in many community theaters. He is an alumni of Young Actors Theater in Reston. He is the tenor section leader with the St. Thomas More Cathedral Choir and a regular cantor at St. Timothy's parish in Chantilly. Thomas received his vocal training at Northwestern Bienen School of Music. He's thrilled to sing and perform with RCP!

Chris Woidka (Avram the Bookseller) backed his way into the world of community theater just a few short years ago when he was cast as Scrooge in the musical *Scrooge!* and then later as the Pharaoh and Levi in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, both with the Pickwick Players. He's thrilled to be making his inaugural appearance with RCP in *Fiddler*, an all-time favorite musical of his. He wants to publicly thank Emily, his Golde of (nearly) 25 years, whom he loves dearly and who makes it possible for him to do what he does. Whatever that is.



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DESIGN & PRODUCTION STAFF

Molly Atwater-Pulisc (Co-Producer) is thrilled to join the talented cast and crew in bringing *Anatevka* to life this fall. Credits at RCP include *The Prom* (Shelby, Co-Choreographer), *Avenue Q* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Cabaret* (Helga). Huge thanks to Thomas, her loved ones, and her RCP family for making her return to theater — both on-stage and backstage — so fulfilling. Here's to more productions in 2025!

Alexandra Chace (Vocal Coach) On-stage credits include *Maria* (West Side Story), *Phoebe* (Gentleman's Guide - LTA), *Mimi* (RENT), *Cosette* (Les Mis), and *Drusilla* (L'Incoronazione di Poppea); off-stage appearances as vocal director, director, and choreographer. Chace is also a clinical and artistic voice specialist/educator (SLP/USC Voice Center, Voice with Alexandra, Encore Stage), and NCVS-trained vocologist. Thank you to all involved, especially Steven James (my rock & partner) and Kaiti Parish (need I say more?).

Ian Claar (Fight/Intimacy) Credits include: NextStop Theatre Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Workhouse Arts Center: *The Art of Murder*. Theatre Prometheus: *Or.*, Victorian Lyric Opera: *The New Moon*, *El Capitan*. Reston Players: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Superior Donuts* [WATCH Award], *Time Stands Still*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Newsies*, *Cabaret*. Little Theatre of Alexandria: *Key for Two*. DC International School: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Clue*, *She Kills Monsters*. Ian is a proud Associate Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC). Website: LightsAndFights.com

Brian Dittmeier (Assistant Producer) is excited to contribute to this production and play a part in bringing *Anatevka* to life. This is Brian's third production with RCP, after *Cabaret* (Max) and *The Prom* (Adult Ensemble). Many thanks to the incredible RCP team, and congratulations to the *Fiddler* cast and crew. To life!

Michael Barret Jones (Producer) is the president of the RCP Board of Directors, served as Co-Producer on last season's *The Prom* and appeared as Princess Dragomiroff in *Murder on the Orient Express*. By day the Director of Development at Round House Theatre in Bethesda, he's spent the last 30 years in nonprofit development and management, and is also known as celebrated emcee, cabaret performer and drag personality Witt Repartee. www.wittirepartee.com

David Katz (Assistant Stage Manager) has left the booth, where he has been a light board operator for the last six RCP productions, for the wings, where he gets to know this incredibly talented cast. He would like to thank the RCP family (especially Kaiti Parish) for this opportunity and education and for this production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, a show-

that means the world to him. He was away from the theater for a long time, and RCP has been such a great “Welcome Back”. And, as always, special thanks to Elyann for her encouragement.

Ryan Kincade (Makeup and Hair Design) has appeared locally as Joan Crawford in *Legends and Bridge* (SCTC), Miss Kitty in *I Shot the Sheriff* (SCTC) and performs regularly all over the DC area, and beyond, as his live-singing drag queen alter ego, Anja Dick. This is Ryan's second time as Hair and Makeup artist for a stage production, previously in *Legends and Bridge*. Ryan can be found on Instagram as Anja Dick at @doctor.anja.dick or via Anja's website at <https://www.anjadick.com>

Christine Maxted (Director) has been part of the theatre education community for 13 years teaching secondary and collegiate theatre. Local venues have included the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap, Upper Room Theatre Ministry, Little Theatre of Alexandria, Rooftop Theater, Pied Piper Theatre, and Prince William Little Theatre. She serves on the steering committee for CAPPRIES NCA and as the theatre teacher at Westfield High School and Stone Middle School in FCPS. Christine owes incredible thanks to Joey Olson for offering her this opportunity, the Fiddler production team, her students, and the cast/crew for joining her on this journey.

Steve McBride (Music Director/Conductor) Since coming to the DC Metro area, Steve has become in demand throughout the area as a vocal coach, accompanist, and conductor. Recent credits include RCP's *The Prom*, *Freaky Friday* (ESS) *Sister Act* (LTA), *Into the Woods* (RMT) and *My Fair Lady* (HHS). Mr. McBride is Director of Choral Activities at at Hughes Middle School, Reston VA, an active Organist for local churches, and national representative for Fratelli Ruffatti Pipe Organs.

Anna Mintz (Set Designer) is delighted to join the creative team for Fiddler on the Roof and bring their vision of Anatevka to Northern Virginia. She extends her heartfelt thanks to Andy, Cathy, Sara, Liz, and the entire creative team for the wonderful collaborative experience, plus a big thank you to all who built the set. Mazel tov, y'all.

Liz Mykietyn (Set Dressing) Favorite theater moments include meeting beau Nicolas, directing Sterling's *Guys & Dolls* and *The Wizard of Oz* as well as Reston's *The Games Afoot*, performing as “Truvy” in *Steel Magnolias* twice (PPF&SP), and winning WATCH Best Director 2014 (PPF) for *Rumors*. She's active with VHSL & WATCH and is so thankful for this opportunity to re-research the history behind Fiddler and striving to help create a sincere space to show the story in while working with amazing theater friends. Please enjoy our Anatevka!

Jerry Morse (Cultural Advisor) is delighted to have offered his knowledge of Russian history, his familiarity with Sholem Aleichem's stories and aspects of his family's background to help ensure that this production accurately portrays shtetl life in the Pale of Settlement in 1905. Jerry holds a Master's Degree in Russian Studies and has been a genealogist for over 13 years. From his genealogical research, Jerry discovered that he has 4 Ukrainian grandparents whose lineage goes back to the 18th century in the Ukraine, one of whom had an early adult life very similar to Tevye's.

Kaiti Parish (Stage Manager) A graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Stage Management program, she is currently employed by Feld Entertainment as the International Contract Director. She has been stage managing RCP shows since 2002. Most recently she just stage-managed Nonsense at NS. She loves sharing her knowledge of backstage theatre with the next generation and spends a lot of her free time at SLHS and LHMS. Thank you to Jason, Jayne and especially Alex for always being willing to share this adventure with me.

Cathy Rieder (Scenic Painter) is honored to be part of the 60th anniversary of *Fiddler*. Cathy has painted 125+ shows in the DC area, most recently *The Prom*, *Avenue Q*, and *A Little Night Music* (RCP). She has 20 WATCH nominations and 5 awards for shows at RCP, ESP, LTA, TAP and DS. Cathy devotes her time to her kids, work, pickleball, friends, and painting and finds colorful inspiration everywhere. Thanks to Anna, Sarah, Dan, Liz and our amazing shop crew for bringing another stellar set to life!

Elizabeth Shaher (Sound Designer) is excited to be back for her ninth show as part of the sound team with RCP. She has most recently sound designed *The Prom* (RCP), *Murder On The Orient Express* (RCP) and *Avenue Q* (RCP).

Eva Thorpe (Costume Designer) is very grateful to dress the folks of *Fiddler*, even despite joining the show mid-rehearsal. She has previously costumed *Spring Awakening*, *H2S*, *The Addams Family*, *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Pippin*, and *Miracle on 34th Street*. Eva is the founder and president of Heart House Inclusive Productions, a nonprofit theater in Woodbridge dedicated to the inclusion of performers with disabilities into the arts, and enjoys serving a variety of technical roles there. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Fiddler* for their infectious spirit and patience. Here's to hoping no one's costumes fall apart mid show!

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Four Weddings and an Elvis by Nancy Frick

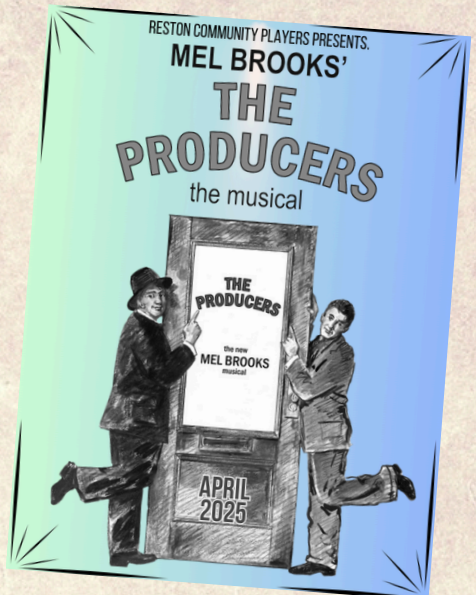
Sandy, the four-times-married-three-times-divorced owner of a wedding chapel in Las Vegas, has certainly seen her fair share of matrimonies! In the hilarious *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, we witness four of her funniest, but, the final wedding is the funniest all: Sandy's fifth and final wedding which reveals a hilarious twist!

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