

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

PROGRAM NOTES – FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

These program notes were provided by Thomasina Hyland, audio describer, and will be shared in advance of scheduled audio-described performances.

SCENERY

Some preliminary notes:

- The show is set in shtetl (village) of Anatevka, Russia, in 1905
- The sky is vital to the scenery - it indicates season, time, the mood of a scene, and even the frame of mind for some characters (such as Tevye's daydreams).
- The set is simple/expressionistic - simple set pieces are unobtrusively and quickly moved in and out of areas by actors, such as doorways, benches, tables, etc.

Upon entering, the curtain is black with red cursive writing that reads: *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Opening Sequence

As the curtain rises, our first visual is striking: a fiddler playing his violin on the slanted roof of a brown wooden farmhouse. This is Tevye's house, with 2 narrow double windows. To the right, an opening that slides, leading to the inside. A brilliant yellow sun shines left and slightly behind the house.

After the Fiddler's melody, the house rises up and out sight. Hanging from wires behind it are 4 brown wooden structures:

- At left a large town Inn,
- At center are 2 houses,
- At right is a house with barn attached

Tevye's Home

The sky is blue with a few clouds. The open space outside the house now represents the kitchen. In the center, to the front, is a table with 2 chairs and a full stone stove. To the right is a small sideboard with 2 candles on a white runner. There is a bench to the right and a milk cart to the left.

In the background is a fence and a sparsely blooming tree with pink flowers; behind the tree are rolling hills.

Sabbath Dinner

A long table with white tablecloth and 2 candles. The sky darkens near the end of the scene.

The Inn

The back wall has 4 large windows. From the ceiling hang 3 lighting fixtures - left, center, and right. There is a stone fireplace toward the back center, a wooden bar at the right, and 3 tables: one to left, one center toward the front, and one to the right in the back.

Tevye's Dream

Tevye's bedroom has a back wall with 6 large windows through which is a crescent moon. There are 2 small beds pushed together to the left-center of the room.

Wedding

A blue sky. In front of the fence are 2 blooming trees. There are lights and vines strung across the background. In center is Chuppa (canopy) - four poles holding up a white cloth. The scene later shifts to 2 chairs at the front-right and roped stanchions set up to the right. Later, tables are set up at the back center and some chairs to the left.

Motel's Tailor Shop

A doorway to the left and straight ahead is a counter with sewing machine on top.

COSTUMES

The Fiddler wears a fancy, dark colored, patterned, long cutaway style vest and hat.

Tevye, our main character and narrator, is played by Jordan Gelber. He is about 5'10" and portly. He has a round face with close cropped dark hair (rarely seen), with a full beard and mustache. He has a brimmed cap covering his head. He wears a patterned vest and whiteish prayer shawl with 4 tzitzit (knotted fringe tassels) at the corners over a light tan, collarless long-sleeved shirt, brown pants, and wears dark knee boots.

For the Sabbath and his daughter's wedding, he wears long belted black coat and black skull cap. For his dream sequence, he has on a long, full-sleeved nightgown and long nightcap with a knitted ball at the end.

Golde, Tevye's wife, is played by Jill Abramovitz; she is about 5'6". She has very dark brown hair worn back in a low bun and always covered - usually by a back-tied kerchief. She wears a brownish, full skirt and matching, printed long sleeved blouse. On top of the skirt she wears a plain half apron as all the women wear (mothers, daughters, & townswomen).

For the Sabbath and her daughter's wedding, she wears a long-sleeved, full skirted black dress with embroidery in front and a white lace shoulder length veil. For the nighttime sequence, she wears an off-white nightgown and ruffled bed cap.

Tzeitel, played by Alexandra Socha, is the eldest of Tevya's and Golde's 5 daughters at 20 years old. She is about 5' 8" and has dark colored, long, wavy hair-covered by kerchief. She wears rust colored, solid full skirt with apron in front, matching rust colored floral long-sleeved blouse, and black ankle boots as her footwear.

Her sisters **Hodel** and **Chava**, played by Austen Danielle Bohmer and Maya Jacobson respectively, wear similar outfits but in different colors.

Motel, the Tailor, is played by Etai Benson. He is about 5'6". He is darker haired with a trimmed beard. He wears the usual male attire with black vest and added black tie with a hat that is brimmed all around.

The Constable, played by Mark Campbell, is over 6' tall. He is dark haired and sports a full mustache. He wears a military uniform - khaki pants and over-the-hips jacket, belted across the chest and around waist. He wears a tall black felted wool hat.

Fyedka, a Russian, is played by Andrew Allstate, who is about 5'11". His hair is dark red, and he is clean shaven. He wears traditional Russian belted, long blouse/shirt in rust salmon color with ab embroidered stand up collar, embroidered open vest, tan pants and knee boots.