

## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF JR

### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN (in order of Leads, supporting Leads, then Ensemble)

#### TEVYE

Tevye is the heart and conscience of Fiddler on the Roof JR. Tevye historically has been cast as a larger young man, but his stature really comes from his integrity and zest for life. Tevye should be able to show the wide range of conflict, joy and pain that this character feels throughout the story. Your actor needs to be comfortable speaking directly to the audience and must develop a comfortable rapport with them. He must have a strong, easily projected voice that can fill the performance space.

Gender: Male                      Vocal range top: E5                      Vocal range bottom: B3

#### GOLDE

Golde is the backbone of the family. She has a rather gruff exterior, but in her heart is sheer dedication to her family. Golde, as an actor, must be able to manage Tevye. She runs the household, and must be able to keep Tevye's more emotional side in check. Conversely, she should be able to show a softer side when dealing with Chava and Tevye's rift. She should have a commanding voice.

Gender: Female                      Vocal range top: Db5                      Vocal range bottom: Bb3

#### TZEITEL

Tzeitel is the oldest daughter of Tevye and Golde. She is the first to challenge the traditions of Anatevka by pleading with her father to let her marry Motel the tailor, to whom she has pledged her love. Keep in mind that she is the oldest daughter, is determined and can manipulate her father. This is the perfect spot for a dramatic actress.

Gender: Female                      Vocal range top: C5                      Vocal range bottom: B3

#### HODEL

Hodel is a strong, independent middle child. She is outspoken but respectful. She has her eye on the Rabbi's son at the outset of the story, but she is charmed by the revolutionary Perchick the moment she meets him, though she may not show it right away. Her dedication and love is real as she follows him to Siberia. Should be an excellent singer and actor as Hodel.

Gender: Female                      Vocal range top: D5                      Vocal range bottom: Bb3

#### CHAVA

Chava is the scholarly daughter who loves to read. Her love for the Russian, Fyedka, tests her father to the very limit and provides the largest conflict in the story. Needs to be an actress who is able to display a wide emotional range.

Gender: Female                      Vocal range top: B4                      Vocal range bottom: Bb3

### **SHPRINTZE and BIELKE**

Shprintze and Bielke are the youngest daughters of Tevye and Golde. They are considerably younger than the three matchmaker daughters. They only have a few lines but are featured in quite a few scenes. They don't need to be strong singers or actresses but should be confident onstage.

Gender: Female

### **MOTEL**

Motel is the poor, young tailor who is charmed with Tzeitel. He is an endearing sort of person. He doesn't have to be a great singer but requires a sensitive and nervous, yet lovable portrayal.

Gender: Male

### **PERCHIK**

Perchik is a young student who brings with him radical new ideas that challenge the traditions of the community. Perchik should be able to hold his own with Tevye. He is a strong character, and clashes with Tevye idealistically, but is likable, charming and ultimately becomes a loyal family member.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: B3

### **LAZAR WOLF**

Lazar Wolf is a butcher, the town's wealthiest citizen and is the same age as, if not older, than Tevye. Lazar could easily be played by a large boy in stature, but an actor of any size can pull off this role. Lazar must appear rather distasteful and feisty, which is why Tzeitel is frightened to marry him. Lazar is one of the featured singers in To Life.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: C4

### **FIDDLER**

The Fiddler must be an actor who can hold the attention of an entire audience with stylized movement, facial expression and dance. Freedom of movement and expression are the keys to casting this character. The Fiddler is a silent role, yet an important one, and can easily be played by either a boy or a girl.

Gender: Any

### **YENTE**

Yente is the middle-aged widow who matches up the young people of the village in hopes that they will marry. She is a village busybody and knows all the news of the town. Needs to be an actress with great comedic timing.

Gender: Female

### **CONSTABLE**

The constable is the local sheriff representing the Russian government. Needs to be an actor who can provide a sense of threat and conflict. The constable is a complex character, caught between his good nature towards the people of Anatevka and his duty to the non-Jewish Russian government. This is a non-singing role that requires a strong actor.

Gender: Male

### **FYEDKA**

Fyedka is a strong, young, Russian soldier who falls in love with Chava. This is a great role for a strong, non-singing actor.

Gender: Male

### **FEAUTURED ENSEMBLE**

Mordcha, Yussel, Avram, the Rabbi and Mendel are smaller roles that add much to the richness of the community portrayed in Fiddler on the Roof JR. Mordcha is a friendly, interesting innkeeper. Yussel is a hatter. Avram is a bookseller. Mendel is the Rabbi's son. The Rabbi is the spiritual center of the community and the actor should be able to play an old man onstage. He should have a comic feel, although this is a serious role. These roles have a short part in To Life that can be spoken or sung.

Gender: Male

### **VILLAGERS**

The Villagers will portray the people of the village as Papas, Mamas, Sons or Daughters. Also included in this group are the Guests, Inn Patrons, Motel's Parents and Motel's Relations. This can be as large a group as our stage can safely accommodate. They are the faces of Anatevka. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone regardless of his or her talent level or experience.

Gender: Any

### **ENSEMBLE**

The First Man, Second Man, Another Man, First Woman, Second Woman and Third Woman all have spoken lines and are great featured roles, perfect for performers who are new to the stage.

Gender: Any

### **RUSSIAN SOLDIERS**

The Russian Soldiers are under the command of the Constable. These are perfect roles for kids who have had little or no experience. Sasha has two short lines, and all the Russians sing together.

Gender: Male