

## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

### **Tevye, the dairyman (THIS ROLE IS FILLED)**

Tevye is a likeable, hard-working, pious man who sees the positive side of life. Strong patriarch but gentle father of 5 daughters he has raised according to the Scriptures. He is humorous and relaxed, but when pushed, can show stubbornness and rage.

### **Golde, Tevye's wife**

Golde is the real strength behind Tevye, the one who keeps the household going. She is very concerned that her daughters make good matches and have easier lives than she & Tevye have had. Good comic timing for very funny lines. Yiddish accent preferred.

### **Yente, the matchmaker**

Yente is the middle-aged widow who matches up the young people of the village in the hopes that they will marry. She is the village busybody and knows all the news of the town. She is the comedienne of the show. Yiddish accent preferred.

### **Lazar Wolf, the butcher**

Lazar is the town's wealthiest citizen & is the same age, if not older, than Tevye. He wants to marry, by traditional parental agreement, Tevye's daughter, Tzeitel. Promising to give her a good & secure life. A feisty, comic role.

### **Tzeitel, the eldest daughter**

Tzeitel is the first daughter to marry and the first to challenge the traditions. She has a desperate crying scene with Tevye when faced with marrying Lazar Wolf instead of Motel, who she really loves. A strong dramatic actress.

### **Motel, the tailor (THIS ROLE IS FILLED)**

Motel is a rather meek & poor tailor who seeks the hand of Tzeitel, and comes into his own in the process! This is a terrific character role needing a sensitive, nervous but loveable portrayal.

### **Hodel, the 2nd eldest daughter**

Hodel becomes intrigued with the radical, young student, Perchik. She eventually leaves Anatevka to join him in Siberia where he is imprisoned for his reform activities. Hodel sings a haunting solo as she says goodbye to her father at the train station.

**Perchik, the student**

Perchik is a visitor to Anatevka, and therefore, an outsider. He brings with him radical new ideas that challenge the traditions. He falls for Hodel. This role requires an actor capable of showing intensity and an unfailing commitment to his beliefs.

**Chava, the 3rd eldest daughter**

Chava is the scholarly daughter who loves to read. She falls in love and runs off with Fyedka, a Russian soldier, and breaks her father's heart. This role requires a capable dramatic actress who can perform an emotional dance.

**Fyedka, a Russian soldier**

Fyedka, a strong young soldier, sees past his military obligations and falls in love with Chava. He challenges Tevye's imposed silence towards him. Fyedka has a solo in "To Life" and dances a Russian dance with his fellow soldiers.

**Shprintze & Bielke**

The two youngest daughters of Tevye & Golde. They take lessons at home from Perchik & appear in several scenes with some speaking lines.

**The Constable**

This Russian military official stationed near Anatevka, knows the villagers well, and even likes some of them, particularly Tevye. But these superficial relationships don't prevent him from carrying out violence against the people. This is a non-singing role requiring a strong actor.

**The Rabbi – (THIS ROLE IS FILLED)**

Anatevka's Jewish spiritual leader.

**Mendel, the Rabbi's son**

The Rabbi's son. He is uncertain of the presence of Perchik in the village.

**Mordcha, the innkeeper**

Runs the bar in town and is a friend of Tevye.

**Avram, the bookseller**

Runs the bookshop in town and keeps the town advised of all of the news in the area.

**Grandma Tzeitel**

Grandma Tzeitel is a ghost figure who appears in the Dream Scene and has a wonderful solo, endorsing the marriage of Tzeitel to Motel. It is a very entertaining & memorable role. This actress will also appear as a villager

**Fruma-Sarah**

Fruma-Sarah is a ghost figure who appears in the Dream Scene. She portrays Lazar Wolf's departed wife & becomes enraged that her husband plans on marrying Tzeitel. It is a show-stopping scene requiring a strong singer to carry a challenging solo. This actress will also appear as a villager.

**Nachum** - the town beggar.

**Yussel** - the town Hatter.

**Shandel** - the mother of Motel.

**Sasha & Boris** - Fyedka's Russian friends & fellow soldiers.

**Priest** - Christian spiritual leader. Will also play a villager.

**Villagers, Russians, & Dancers**

These chorus members will portray the people of the village as either Papas, Mamas, Sons or Daughters. Also, Russian soldiers and featured dancers. There will be double casting in these areas as needed. Some smaller speaking roles & solos will be determined by the Director.