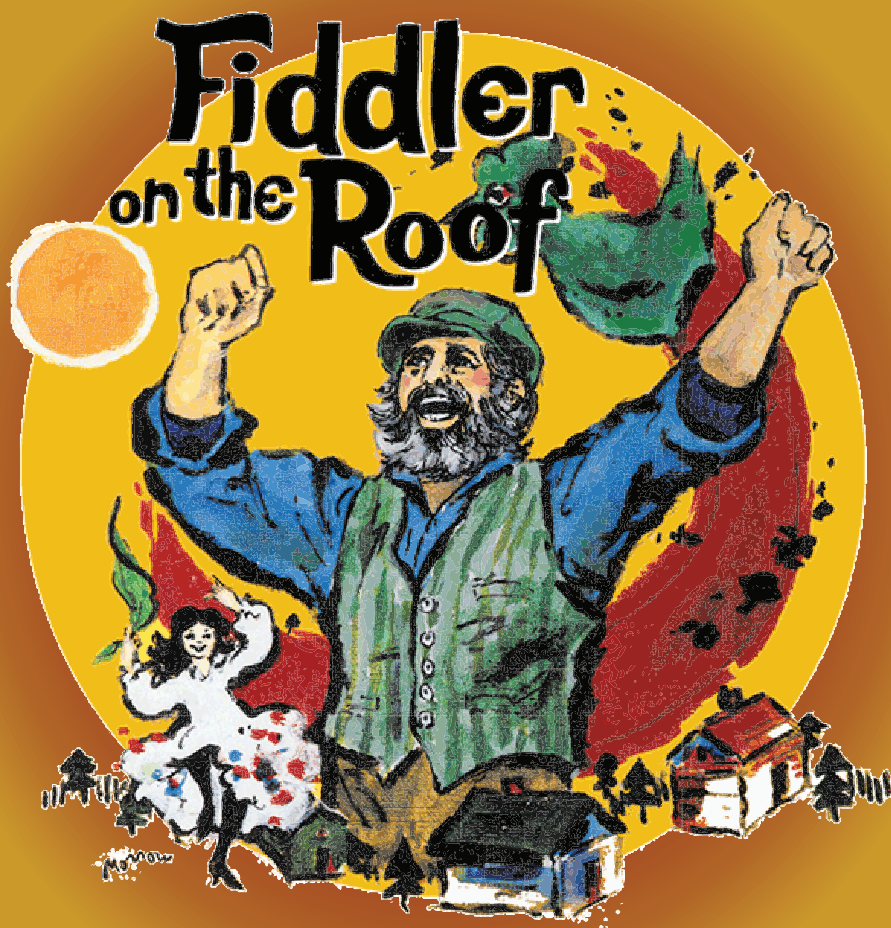


GERTRUDE C.  
**FORD CENTER**  
*for the Performing Arts*

THE UNIVERSITY of  
**MISSISSIPPI**



*Fiddler on the Roof* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
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**Friday & Saturday | June 27-28, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.**

*Support for the Ford Center Community Musical provided by Nancye B. Starnes.*

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351 University Ave, Oxford, MS | [f](#) [@](#)



# Fiddler on the Roof

Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by special permission of Arnold Perl

Book by  
JOSEPH STEIN

Music by  
JERRY BOCK

Lyrics by  
SHELDON HARNICK

Produced on the New York Stage by Harold Prince

Original New York Stage Production Directed  
and Choreographed by JEROME ROBBINS

Original choreography reproduced by RENÉ PULLIAM.

JULIA AUBREY  
Artistic Director

JOHN DAVENPORT  
Director

MICHAEL WORTHY  
Music Director

RENÉ PULLIAM  
Choreography

FELIPE E. MACIAS  
Scenic Design

MATT ZERANGUE  
Lighting Design

COREY BRITTAIN  
Costume Design

MADISON HICKEY-RIKER  
Stage Manager

CORY KOSMAN  
Sound Design

MEG WINKLER  
Props Design



*Any Video and/or Audio Recording of this Production Is Strictly Prohibited.*

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT 1

“Prologue: Tradition” .....	Tevye and Company
“Matchmaker, Matchmaker” .....	Tzeitel, Hodel and Chava
“If I Were a Rich Man” .....	Tevye
“Sabbath Prayer” .....	Tevye, Golde, Company
“To Life” .....	Tevye, Lazar Wolf, Russian soloist and Men
“Tevye’s Monologue” .....	Tevye
“Miracle of Miracles” .....	Motel
“Tevye’s Dream” .....	Tevye, Golde, Grandma Tzeitel Rabbi, Fruma-Sarah and Company
“Sunrise, Sunset” .....	Tevye, Golde, Perchik, Hodel and Company
“The Wedding” .....	Instrumental

## ACT 2

“Entr’acte” .....	Orchestra
“Now I Have Everything” .....	Perchik and Hodel
“Tevye’s Rebuttal” .....	Tevye
“Do You Love Me?” .....	Tevye and Golde
“The Rumor/I Just Heard” .....	Yente and Villagers
“Far From the Home I Love” .....	Hodel
“Chavaleh (Little Bird)” .....	Tevye
“Anatevka” .....	The Company

# ORCHESTRA

Conductor .....	Michael Worthy
Piano .....	Richard Culpepper
Keyboard .....	Saundra Bishop
Violin .....	Armee Hong
Cello .....	Kelsey Smith
Bass .....	Camden Boutwell
Flute .....	Madison Marasco
Clarinet .....	Michael Rowlett
Trumpet .....	Brandon Lewis
Trumpet .....	Max Warren
Trombone .....	Micah Everett
Percussion .....	Tyler Harris

# CAST

Tevye .....	Joe Jackson*
Golde .....	Brooke Worthy
Tzeitel .....	Ann Hunter Bigham
Hodel .....	Gwen Oliver
Chava .....	Bell Mills
Shprintze .....	Elsa Jones
Bielke .....	Amelia Griffith
Yente .....	Kate Hooper
Motel .....	Justin Wadkins
Shaindel .....	Amy Jackson
Perchick .....	Jacob Heuer
Lazar Wolf .....	Jim White
Mordcha .....	Adam Griffith
Rabbi .....	Rick Balkin
Mendel, his son .....	Andrew Robertson
Avram, the Bookseller .....	Bill Taylor
Nachum, the Beggar .....	Jem Sands
Grandma Tzeitel .....	Jean Gispén
Fruma-Sarah .....	Briana Brown
Constable .....	Christopher Schager
Fyedka .....	Gavin Lane
Yussel .....	Matt Hackworth
Sasha .....	Owen Jackson
Russian Friend .....	Mac Cole
Russian Soloist .....	Davis Jones
Russian Dance Soloist .....	Chase Welch
A Fiddler .....	Jiwon Lee
Priest .....	Chase Welch
Chava Ballet Soloist .....	Anna Grace Denny
Musician .....	Michael Rowlett

## *Village Mamas*

Debra Anderson, Danica Boyd, Briana Brown,  
Marjorie Buckley, Meaghin Burke, Jean Gispén, Rhonda Hackworth,  
Elizabeth Howorth, Alice Anne Light, Miranda Marsh

## *Village Papas*

Robert Aubrey, Jason Boyd, Brad Light, Davis Jones

## *Village Daughters*

Bailey Boyd, Kaitlyn Busby, Carolina Casissa,  
Mary Elena Hale, Kya Jackson

## *Village Sons*

Gavin Boyd, Mac Cole, Bremen Earnest,  
Owen Jackson, Bennett Worthy

## *Russians*

Gavin Lane, Mac Cole, Owen Jackson,  
Andrew Robertson, Jem Sands, Chase Welch

## *Bottle Dancers*

Gavin Lane, Mac Cole, Owen Jackson,  
Andrew Robertson, Kaitlyn Busby, Chase Welch

*\*Member of Actors' Equity Association*

# CAST



Debra Anderson



Robert Aubrey



Rick Balkin



Ann Hunter Bigham



Bailey Boyd



Danica Boyd



Gavin Boyd



Jason Boyd



Briana Brown



Marjorie Buckley



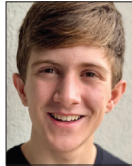
Meaghin Burke



Kaitlyn Busby



Carolina Casissa



Mac Cole



Anna Grace Denny



Bremen Earnest



Jean Gispén



Adam Griffith



Amelia Griffith



Matt Hackworth



Rhonda Hackworth



Mary Elena Hale



Jacob Heuer



Kate Hooper

# CAST



Elizabeth Howorth



Amy Smith Jackson



Joe Jackson



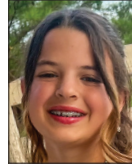
Owen Jackson



Kya Jackson



Davis Jones



Elsa Jones



Gavin Lane



Jiwon Lee



Alice Anne Light



Brad Light



Miranda Marsh



Bell Mills



Gwen Oliver



Andrew Robertson



Jem Sands



Christopher Schager



Bill Taylor



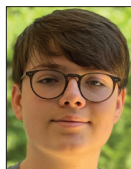
Justin Wadkins



Chase Welch



James White



Bennett Worthy



Brooke Worthy



# BIOS

## **Debra Anderson** (*Village Mama*)

is a singer, performer, teacher, director, wife and mother. She is a veteran teacher of 32 years having directed over 30 productions and currently teaches theatre at Oxford Middle School. In addition, she has directed for Theatre Oxford. She has performed on stage in leading roles in *Oliver!*, *The Fantasticks!*, *How to Succeed....*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Nunsense*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. She is a member of Oxford Civic Chorus and was a member of the Oxford Shakespeare Festival where she appeared in *The Sound of Music*, *Camelot* and *All's Well That Ends Well*.

## **Robert Aubrey** (*Village Papa*)

After many years of teaching and conducting, Robert Aubrey is delighted to be on this side of the stage! He performed in numerous musical theatre productions during his university times and his three seasons with the Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma City. His primary career and training is in the field of music education and conducting. He has conducted a variety of operatic and musical works for the stage at several universities and community theatre productions.

**Rick Balkin** (*Rabbi*) is making his theater debut. He is a Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Leadership and Counselor Education at The University of Mississippi. Rick is married to Melissa, and they have three daughters, Abigail (26), Gabriela (19), and Isabel (15). Rick drew inspiration for his role of the Rabbi from his father and paternal grandfather, as well as his numerous maternal relatives who were Holocaust survivors. Rick dedicates his performance to his parents, Howard (d. 2005) and Suzanne Balkin (d. 2011).

**Ann Hunter Bigham** (*Tzeitel*) is so excited to be participating in *Fiddler on the Roof*! Her recent theatre credits include: *Funny Girl* (Fanny Brice), *War Paint* (Elizabeth Arden,) both at Oxford High School, and *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel) at Panola Playhouse. Ann Hunter's first show with Mr. Davenport was *Fiddler on the Roof*

in 2018 when she played Shprintze, so this is a neat full circle moment for her! She also loves to play the piano, read, and is looking forward to attending the University of Alabama in the fall. Ann Hunter credits all of her achievements and all of her dreams to the greatest mentor, John Davenport

**Bailey Boyd** (*Village Daughter*) is a rising 7th grader at Oxford Middle School and is thrilled to be a Village Daughter in *Fiddler on the Roof*! Her most recent roles include Player 6 in The Ford Center's Youth Music Theatre Workshop's production of *Dare to Dream* and Teen Fiona in *Shrek Jr.* at OMS. She has also performed in *Black-Eyed Susans* (Little Girl), *Peppermint Bear* (Elf Chorus), *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe* (Elf & Cheetah), and *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Toy Cat). When she's not on stage, Bailey rocks the trails with her mountain biking team, the Gnarmadillos, and makes tiny foods and colorful bracelets. She thanks her family for always cheering her on in all the roles she plays!

**Danica Boyd** (*Village Mama*) is thrilled to be returning to the stage as a Village Mama after many years away—her love for theater began at age 15 when she played Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific*. Since then, she's performed in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and a variety of other high school and community productions. A lifelong singer, Danica has been active in choirs for most of her life. This production of *Fiddler on the Roof* is especially meaningful, as she shares the stage with her husband—whom she met while performing *South Pacific*—and their twin children, who have inherited the family's passion for theater. When she's not performing, Danica works as a marriage counselor, and loves spending time with her two dogs and a great cup of coffee. She is deeply grateful for the opportunity to reignite her love of performing and to be part of this wonderful cast and crew.

**Gavin Boyd** (*Village Son*) is a twelve-year-old rising 7th grader at Oxford Middle School and is pumped to be playing a



Village Son in *Fiddler on the Roof*! He's no stranger to the stage, having recently performed as Player 11 in The Ford Center's Youth Music Theatre Workshop's production of *Dare to Dream* and Puss in Boots in *Shrek Jr.* at OMS. His past roles include Father Christmas and Fox in *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, the Real Rabbit in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and a merry member of the Elf Chorus in *Peppermint Bear*. Offstage, Gavin has enjoyed building bots with the Oxford Intermediate robotics team and powers up his creativity through many hours of gaming. Gavin wants to send a big shout out to his parents for encouraging him through his theatre journey!

**Jason Boyd** (*Village Papa*) is highly honored to be playing a Village Papa in *Fiddler on the Roof*. This production marks his return to the stage after a twenty-year hiatus. His most recent role is Charlie Brown in Brookhaven High School's 2003 production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He also played Luther Billis in BHS's production of *South Pacific*. Jason received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from The University of Mississippi's computer science department. He works as the Director of Data Extraction Solutions at mTrade. There are no words to express his depth of thankfulness to be sharing the stage with his wife Danica, his son Gavin, and his daughter Bailey except, perhaps, l'chaim!

**Briana Brown** (*Fruma-Sarah, Village Mama*) is excited to return to the Ford Center as Fruma Sarah! Some favorite credits include: Bridesmaid/*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Theatre Oxford), Mrs. Page/*The Merry Wives of Windsor* (UM Opera), Sister Margaretta/*The Sound of Music* (Oxford Shakespeare Festival), Preziosa/*La Forza del Destino* (Scuola Italia), Third Lady/*The Magic Flute* (Druid City), and Wendy Jo/*Footloose* (UM Theatre). Briana is an alumnus of Julia Aubrey's voice studio at the University of Mississippi where she earned her Master of Music in Vocal Performance. She would like to thank her family and mentors for their support and encouragement!

**Marjorie Buckley** (*Village Mama*) is overjoyed to return to *Fiddler* after 56 years, having played Chava alongside Oxonian, Patty Lewis, who played Tzeitel in the OM Summer Showcase Theatre's production in 1969! A lifelong performer, she's grateful for the opportunities to sing, act, dance, and direct on various stages in Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. Passionate about participating in and promoting the arts, she wishes to thank the Fiddler directors for casting her as a Village Mama.

**Meaghin Burke** (*Village Mama*) is pleased to lace up her boots and dance the horah with this fantastic group of folks! Originally from Ocean Springs (where she was part of dozens of local ballet and theatrical productions), Meaghin has lived in Oxford for almost thirty years and is an attorney and adjunct professor at the School of Law. She has participated extensively in the Mississippi independent film scene as a director and actor. Her film *Garage Sale* won a Hoka at the Oxford Film Festival, and she directed the OFF community film in 2014. She is overjoyed to share the stage with her greatest production: her son, Bremen.

**Kaitlyn Busby** (*Village Daughter, Bottle Dancer*) is a rising junior at the University of Mississippi studying music education and is a graduate of the Mississippi School of the Arts vocal program. At the University, Kaitlyn participates in University Chorus, Concert Singers, Opera Theatre, UMprov, and is the secretary of the UM chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Some of her recent performance credits include Britten's *Turn of the Screw* with the University of Mississippi, Shore's *The Beautiful Bridegroom* with the University of Mississippi, and *Oklahoma!* with The Gertrude C. Ford Center. Outside of music, Kaitlyn enjoys thrifting, reading, and crocheting. She is thrilled to be a part of her second Ford Center summer community musical.

**Carolina Cassisa** (*Village Daughter*) is a rising junior at the University of Mississippi and a 2023 Mississippi School of the Arts dance program graduate. Cassisa is pursuing two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Classics and Theatre Arts as a part of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. Her recent acting credits include Decius Brutus in the University of Mississippi's production of *Julius Caesar* and a dance ensemble member in the Ford Center's 2024 production of *Oklahoma!* and 2023 production of *The Music Man*. When not dancing or choreographing, she enjoys horseback riding and antiques.

**McCaslin "Mac" Cole** (*Russian Friend, Village Son, Russian, Bottle Dancer*) is a rising sophomore at OHS. He is excited to return for another summer of theater! Mac has been acting and singing since the fourth grade, and dancing since the eighth. Some of his favorite roles have been Captain Hook in *Peter Pan, Jr.*, Albus Potter in *Cursed Child*, and Damis in *Tartuffe*. Outside of theater, Mac enjoys tap, guitar, math, and spending time with his friends. He is a proud Eagle Scout and member of OHS Choir and Orchestra. Mac is extremely grateful for the rest of this awesome cast, and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Anna Grace Denny** (*Chava Ballet Soloist*) is a recent graduate of the BFA Stage & Screen program at Ole Miss (hotty toddy!). She has loved performing on the Ford Center stage in roles such as Cinderella in *Cinderella*, Emma Nolan in *The Prom*, and Zaneeta Shinn in *The Music Man*! AG would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support. Enjoy the show :)

**Bremen Earnest** (*Village Son*) is excited to be a part of *Fiddler On The Roof*! A rising fifth-grader at Magnolia Montessori, Bremen is a chess enthusiast, piano player, and Minecraft expert. His parents, Meaghin Burke and Greg Earnest, are thrilled to see Bremen continue the family tradition of musical theatre participation.

**Jean Gispén** (*Grandma Tzeitel, Village Mama*) After many years in private practice rheumatology, Jean Gispén served as an employee-health physician at the University. Since her retirement three years ago, she has dove into theater. She was in the female ensembles of *HMS Pinafore*, *The Music Man*, and *Oklahoma!*, all at the Ford Center, and was a cast member of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at Theatre Oxford. She delights in growing blackberries, arugula, and tomatoes.

**Adam Griffith** (*Mordcha*) is from Charlotte, NC. He came to Oxford in pursuit of a BFA in Theatre Arts but quickly changed course when he found his love for clowning. While researching the illustrious art of silent, white-faced actortainment, he found its highest subgenre, mime, to be his true calling. Wanting to pursue his dream to its fullest extent, he enrolled in the Marceau Acting Conservatory for the Dumb (Go Capybaras!). Once he inevitably got tired of being quiet, he took on his longest-running role and magnum opus, husband and father. Although she dreams daily of the old days of silence, his wife (and fortitude of patience), Sarah, hasn't divorced him yet. They have 3 adult sons and a 12-year-old daughter. Adam is currently the Chef of the Alpha Psi chapter of Delta Gamma sorority (Do Good!) on the Ole Miss campus.

**Amelia Griffith** (*Bielke*) is the daughter of Sarah and Adam Griffith. She is a rising 7th grader and is looking forward to continuing her choral and theatre talents in middle school. She has been invited to the All-State Honor Choir for the past two years and is in her 6th year of piano lessons. Her previous stage credits include Elf Ensemble in the last 2 years of Theatre Oxford's *Peppermint Bear*. Amelia loves horror movies and post-apocalyptic zombie anything but draws the line at any sort of harm coming to animals on screen.

**Matt Hackworth** (*Yussel*) is thrilled to be part of the company staging *Fiddler* and its critical message of community, tradition and tolerance. He is a journalist

whose work has appeared on NPR and in other media. Matt is a (PCUSA) Presbyterian minister who served relief, development and refugee programs for nearly two decades. He is married on stage and off to fellow cast member Rhonda Hackworth, who teaches music education at Ole Miss. They are proud parents to Noah, who lives with autism. Noah's mechanical gifts prompted them to create *goodneighboroxford.com*, a growing family business that helps Oxfordians with home care and repairs.

**Rhonda Hackworth** (*Village Mama*) is delighted to return to the stage in *Fiddler on the Roof* as a Village Mama, following her musical theater debut last year as a farmer's wife in *Oklahoma!*. She has previously performed in classical concerts, oratorios, and operas, including roles such as the Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas* and the Third Lady in *The Magic Flute*. Rhonda is associate professor of music at The University of Mississippi, where she teaches graduate music education and coordinates the department's graduate program. She is especially grateful to share the stage once again with students, colleagues, and her husband, Matt Hackworth (*Yussel*). Rhonda warmly thanks her parents and sister for traveling from North and South Carolina—and her in-laws for making the trip from Virginia—to support the show.

**Mary Elena Hale** (*Village Daughter*) is delighted to be participating in *Fiddler on the Roof* this summer. Recent credits include *Oklahoma!* at the Ford Center, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Funny Girl* at Oxford High School. Mary Elena is a rising Junior at Oxford High School and enjoys playing the cello in the OHS orchestra, singing in the OHS choir and her church youth choir, dancing at Oxford Academy of Dance Arts, running on the OHS cross country team, and competing with the OHS speech and debate team.

**Jacob Heuer** (*Perchick*) is thrilled to be back at the Ford Center where he has appeared the last two summers in *The Music Man* as Oliver Hix and *Oklahoma!* as Ali Hakim. He is a graduate from Ole Miss with a BFA in Acting for the Stage and

Screen and is no stranger to the stage as he has appeared in several UM Theatre productions as Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*, The Baker in *Into the Woods*, G/Zeus in *Polaroid Stories*, Mr. Callahan in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, Robert in *Boeing Boeing*, and Mr. Laurence in *Little Women*. He has just returned to Oxford from working as an acting associate artist for New Stage Theatre in Jackson, MS where he appeared in *Gaslight*, *When We Were Young* and *Unafraid*, *Fairview*, and *Little Women: The Broadway Musical*.

**Kate McCalley Hooper** (*Yente*) a Senior Lecturer of Speech in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric and the TED licensed organizer for TEDx University of Mississippi (*tedxuniversityofmississippi.com*). Kate received her MFA in Acting from UCLA's School of Theatre, Film, and Television and worked professionally in the entertainment industry for nearly 20 years. She is channeling her late mother-in-law, Gloria Saks and performing in memory of Gloria, her Aunt Amy (Cohen Livingston Boswell), and her extended family member Olga Stern, a Holocaust Survivor, whose stone reads, "The more sorrow one encounters, the more joy one can contain. The more hatred one defeats, the more love one can bestow. A part of us dies with you. A part of you lives with us."

**Elizabeth Howorth** (*Village Mama*) is thrilled to return to the Ford Center stage to perform in *Fiddler on the Roof*! She was in the cast of 2024's *Oklahoma!*, and has enjoyed reuniting with so many fellow musical theatre enthusiasts. She is particularly excited about her one word singing solo in 'The Dream' sequence, just before the bed goes flying! Don't miss it! All thanks and lifelong, abiding love goes to her partner in life, best friend, skilled chef, premiere mixologist, unlicensed therapist, dishwasher unloader, and farm manager, the inimitable Andy Howorth.

**Amy Jackson** (*Shaindel*) is delighted to share the stage with family and friends in her third summer show at the Ford Center. Amy's national tours include *Crazy for You*, *Funny Girl*, *State Fair*, and

*Copacabana*. Her most memorable performing experience was a tour of *West Side Story* across Italy. She holds a BA in Theatre and Drama from Indiana University and an MS Ed in Special Education from Bank Street College in New York City. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Education at UM – Hotty Toddy! This one is for Chris.

**Joe Jackson** (*Tevye*) is honored to be a part of this production at his alma mater where he has returned as an Instructional Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre Dance. He is a proud member of Actors Equity Association that has performed in New York, regionally, and internationally, and has also been involved in multiple readings and new works. Two highlights are the national tour of *Dr. Doolittle*, where he tap danced alongside Broadway icon Tommy Tune, and an Italian tour of *West Side Story*, where he proposed to his amazing wife (Amy Jackson)! Joe is excited to return to the Ford Center stage alongside his wife and son, Owen, and hopes you all enjoy this classic story.

**Kya “Dani” Jackson** (*Village Daughter*) is a rising junior in the B.F.A. Acting for Stage & Screen program at the University of Mississippi. She is from Clinton, Mississippi. At the University, Kya has appeared in several productions. Her credits include *Silent Sky* (Annie Jump-Cannon), *Everybody* (Death), *Ride the Cyclone* (Constance Blackwood), and *The Lightning Thief* (Annabeth Chase). Kya is thrilled for her first Ford Center community musical!

**Owen Jackson** (*Sasha, Village Son, Russian, Bottle Dancer*) is grateful to be apart of his first production at the Ford Center. His past acting credits include *Annie*, *Into the Woods*, and *Matilda*, as well as multiple productions at Performing Arts Camp (Sewickley, PA). He also served as the stage manager for *Newsies* at OMS. Owen also plays football and is heavily involved in MCJROTC at OHS.

**Davis Jones** (*Russian Soloist, Village Papa*) is a songwriter/musical composer, last seen in Theater Oxford's 10-Minute Play Festival as Timbo in Locker Room

Talk, and Jerry in Dibs on the Scotty Dog. Other credits include *Les Miserables* (Javert), *Hairspray!* (Corny Collins), *Next to Normal* (Dan), *West Side Story* (Lieutenant Schrank) and *Beauty and Beast* (Beast) all at Panola Playhouse. Jones also directed one of the TO's 10 min plays, *Dark Matter*, in 2019 and won fellowship as a composer for BMI's Musical Theater Composition Workshop in New York City from 2001-2003. He sends his love to wife Kate Meacham and his children, Alex, Elsa, and Bianca.

**Elsa Jones** (*Shprintze*) is a rising junior at Lafayette High School where she participates in band, color guard, and theatre. She has appeared in productions of *Into the Woods*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* at LHS and *Annie*, *Oliver!*, *The Lion King* and *Elf: The Musical!* at Panola Playhouse. Elsa also participated in the Ford Center's Youth Music Theatre Workshop for six years.

**Gavin Lane** (*Fyedka, Russian, Bottle Dancer*) landed in Oxford, Mississippi, from his beginnings in fabulous Las Vegas. Most recently in the UM Theater Department, Gavin played The Amazing Karnak in *Ride The Cyclone* and is very excited to be playing Mr. Webb in *Our Town* at the Ford Center this fall. Gavin also has played various featured roles in *Oklahoma!* and *The Music Man* at the Ford Center. Gavin is a Senior in the BFA Acting for the Stage and Screen program at Ole Miss. Gavin loves Jazz and Old Hollywood, and can't wait for you to see the show!

**Jiwon Lee** (*A Fiddler*) a native of Oxford, Mississippi, holds master's degrees in music education, Flute Performance, and Violin Performance from the University of Mississippi. She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and was inducted into the University of Mississippi Hall of Fame in 2018. She served as drum major of the “Pride of the South” marching band for two years and held the position of principal flutist and violinist for seven years.

Following a year of teaching in public schools, she returned to the University of Mississippi to pursue a

master's degree in integrated marketing communications, which she completed in 2024. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education at the University of Mississippi. Jiwon is also an active performer, frequently appearing at university sporting events, weddings, and community gatherings as a violinist and flutist.

**Alice Anne Light** (*Village Mama, Vocal Coach/Outreach Coordinator*) is excited to return to Oxford this summer to collaborate with the Ford Center as the Outreach Coordinator and Vocal Coach for *Fiddler on the Roof*. Throughout the year, she serves as Associate Director of Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Voice at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, where she resides with her husband Brad and their two dogs, Hilde and Bernie.

**Brad Light** (*Village Papa, Assistant Music Director*) is thrilled to return to the Ford Center in as a Village Papa and Assistant Music Director in *Fiddler on the Roof*. He previously appeared on the Ford Center stage as Cord Elam in *Oklahoma!*, Ewart Dunlop in *The Music Man!* and in Oxford Shakespeare Festival's Productions of *Camelot* as Sir Sagamore (2011) and *Henry IV, Part 1* as Westmorland (2011). Brad also appeared as Giuseppe in UM Opera Theater's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* (2011). Brad has also appeared as Paul in *Company* (Olathe Civic Theater) and Henrich in *A Little Night Music* (Leawood Stage Company). Dr. Light is an Associate Director of Choral Studies at Texas Tech University, where he conducts the Matador Singers tenor-bass choir and teaches courses in choral music education.

**Miranda Marsh** (*Village Mama*) is excited to be returning to community theatre at the Ford Center this summer. This opportunity has allowed her to be back on the stage having participated in many shows previously at the Lyric Theatre in Brownwood, TX. Her favorite roles have been Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* and Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*. When she's not performing, she enjoys teaching private piano and voice in her home, as well as

being on staff at OU Methodist. She would like to thank her family for their support as well as a few special friends who have given her support and encouragement to be the strong woman she's meant to become! Y'all are LOVED!!

**Bell Mills** (*Chava*) is a rising junior at the University of Mississippi and is ecstatic to be playing Chava in this production. She participates in the University choirs including University Chorus, Women's Glee, and Concert Singers. Some of her previous theater performances include *Pride and Prejudice* (Georgianna Darcy), *Treasure Island* (Justice Death), and *Shakespeare in Love* (Hugh Fennyman), as well as musical performances in *Chicago* (Mary Sunshine, Specialty Dancer, and Student Vocal Director), and *Mamma Mia!* (Ali, Specialty Dancer, and Student Vocal Director). She will also be involved in the upcoming production of *She Loves Me* with the University Theater Department. Theater is one of the biggest parts of her life, she has had an incredible time working with this cast and crew on this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Gwen Oliver** (*Hodel*) is absolutely thrilled to be making her Oxford debut at the Ford Center in her first musical in four years. Previous theater credits include *Crazy For You* (Irene), *Almost Maine* (Glory & Hope), *Seussical* (Young Kangaroo), *Les Misérables* (Factory Worker/Ensemble). Gwen just finished her freshman year at the University of Mississippi working toward her B.F.A. in Visual Art and a minor in Education.

**Andrew Robertson** (*Mendel, his son, Russian, Bottle Dancer*) This is Andrew's second community theatre production. He is so happy he gets to work with the community theatre once again. His first production was Theatre Oxford's *I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change* and he grew very close with all the people. In the Ford Center Community Musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, he is playing many roles including Mendel the rabbi's son, bottle dancer, Russian dancer, and a grim reaper. He would like to thank Carrie White, Madison Hickey-Riker, as well as all the other casting staff for encouraging him

to audition for this show. Specifically, he would like to acknowledge Rene Pulliam, the choreographer, for encouraging him to audition for the show and helping him find out his love for dancing.

**Jem Sands** (*Nachum, the Beggar, Russian*) is excited to make their debut on the Ford Center stage. “This has been a fun but challenging experience making new friends and working with old friends.” This is one of their favorite musicals and they hope you all enjoy the show. Jem was last seen on stage in Theatre Oxford’s production of *I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change!*, and before that they stage managed the Ten Minute Play Festival and was Snuffles in *Peppermint Bear and the Two-Headed Dragon*. “Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as...a fiddler on the roof!”

**Christopher Schager** (*Constable, Fight Choreographer*) has taught for the state of Mississippi for the last 33 years. In 1996 he created the O’Connor Theater Project, in 1997 Theatre Oxford, and has been a long-standing member of the Ford Center for the Performing Arts. He’s been a performer, an instructor, a director, a fight choreographer and a patron. Christopher resides in Oxford, Mississippi with his very talented wife of 32 years.

**Bill Taylor** (*Avram, the Bookseller*) is the Chief Technology Officer at FNB Oxford Bank, where he’s proud to share good news like faster systems, tighter security, and never-expiring passwords. He also serves as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 45, teaching boys how not to get lost in the woods (even if he sometimes is). Playing Avram, the town’s unofficial herald of doom, has been a fun change of pace. He thanks his wife Sharon for her patience during weeks of dramatic proclamations about edicts, arrested rabbis, and randomly singing about “Frumah Sarah.” May God bless you and keep you.

**Justin Wadkins** (*Motel*) is excited to return to the grand Ford Center stage! Justin is pursuing a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Mississippi, where his research

focuses on inclusion and diversity in the choral classroom. Recent performance credits include Jud Fry (*Oklahoma!*), Old Deuteronomy (*Cats*), the Baker (*Into the Woods*), Laurie (*Little Women*) and Gildenstein in the world premiere of the opera *Hamlet: Prince of Denmark* in Prague, Czech Republic. He is also an award-winning music director, voice coach, and serves as Vice President on the Board of Directors for Theatre Oxford. Additionally, Justin facilitates sound baths as a certified sound healer and is passionate about spreading awareness of personal well-being with the community.

**Chase Welch** (*Priest, Russian, Bottle Dancer*) began dancing as a child, appearing in the Carrollton, MS ballet school’s productions of *Cinderella* and *Snow White*. In high school, he danced for the Susan Allen School of Dance in Winona, MS in their productions of *Grease*, *Footloose*, and *Dirty Dancing*. Upon attending Ole Miss, his passion for dance began to grow. Chase appeared in many dance productions around Oxford and Ole Miss, including Ole Miss Theatre’s productions of “Showstoppers,” *Mississippi: The Dance Company’s Mixed Nuts* as the Nutcracker, and several productions for Oxford Ballet School. He was a founding member, dancer and choreographer for Hinge Dance Company in Oxford, where he was active for many years. As an instructor and choreographer, Chase has worked for several dance studios, schools, and colleges across Mississippi, including Oxford Ballet School, Tupelo Academy of Dance Arts, Mississippi Delta Community College, and Delta State University. After several years away from performing while starting his family, Chase is excited to be back on the stage in this production of *Fiddler!*

**James White** (*Lazar Wolf*) retired to Oxford from North Carolina in 2021 with his wife, Jennifer, and youngest son, Swinton. He has been performing in musical theatre since the early ‘70s and is very glad for the opportunity to continue with this production and cast of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

**Bennett Worthy** (*Village Son*) is a rising 7th grader and is thrilled to once again be on the Ford Center stage for this summer’s community musical, *Fiddler*



*on the Roof!* This past year, he starred as Shrek in *Shrek Jr.* at Oxford Middle School and Jimmy in Theatre Oxford's 10 Minute Play Festival. Bennett has also spent five years performing with the Summer Youth Music Theatre Workshop, including playing the role of Papageno in the 2024 adaptation of *The Magic Flute*. He was proud to portray Winthrop in the Ford Center's production of *The Music Man* and was also part of the Ensemble in *Oklahoma!* Outside of theatre, Bennett enjoys playing the violin and trombone, video games, hanging out with friends, and spending time with his family—and of course, with Roxy and That Kitty.

**Brooke Worthy (Golde)** is excited to be on stage again with the Ford Center's community musical, *Fiddler on the Roof!* and has truly enjoyed playing Golde, the mother who multitasks and “just gets things done.” She has loved musical theatre since she was a child, performing in school and community musicals. Her most memorable roles were Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma!*, Marty in *Grease*, Dorothy in *The Wiz*, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, and Alma Hix in *The Music Man*. She is thrilled to be back on stage for the 3rd summer, particularly with her son, Bennett, and husband, Michael. She is Broker/Owner of Neighborhood Realty in Oxford.

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Choreographer.....	Carrie White
Assistant Music Director.....	Brad Light
Vocal Coach/ Outreach Coordinator.....	Alice-Anne Light
Fight Choreographer .....	Christopher Schager
Rehearsal Pianist .....	Richard Culpepper
Rehearsal Pianist .....	Sandra Bishop
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Madeline Mulkey
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Allison Walcott
Sound Assistant .....	Alyssa Sheppard
Props Assistant .....	Ashton Necaise
Carpenter.....	Ed Neilson
Carpenter Assistant.....	Abbey Thomas
Carpenter Assistant.....	Matelyn Hill
Costume Assistant .....	Holly Rankin
Costume Assistant/Hair & MU.....	Paleif Raspberry
Costume Assistant .....	Emma Holland
Running Crew.....	Kenneth Franklin (FC-Flyman), Xander Watson, Ellie Morarie, Patrick Sparks, Dominick Crocker, Phillip Howard



# ARTISTIC STAFF BIOS

**Julia Aubrey** (*Artistic Director*) associate professor of music at the University of Mississippi, is Director of the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts since 2016 and served as Director of Opera Theatre in the Department of Music from 1995 – 2021. In her role as Director of the Ford Center, Julia was a featured speaker for the North American Performing Arts Managers and Agents, and is a member of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals. Julia served as president of the National Opera Association from 2012- 2014. Under her direction, the UM Opera Theatre placed first in national competitions and was selected for appearances at national conferences and regional festivals. Professor Aubrey served as the Guest Artist Opera Stage Director for the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival in Alaska and the Quad City Mozart Festival, and associate artistic director of the Oxford Shakespeare Festival. She served as Artistic Director and Stage Director for the world premiere (Ford Center) and European premiere (Prague, Czech Republic) of *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. The process of producing this new American opera was featured in two documentaries produced by MPB and Southern Documentary.

**John Davenport** (*Director*) has been teaching theatre at Oxford High School for twenty-five years and is honored to be a part of this community event once again. Many thanks to everyone involved in making this evening happen and for simply trusting a local drama teacher. Special thanks to Julia Aubrey for the invitation and for bringing everyone together - what an exceptional creative team, cast, and staff. Congratulations to everyone on a beautiful production.

**Michael Worthy** (*Music Director*) is a Professor of Music and the director of Ole Miss Jazz. He has music directed over a dozen productions in his career and is delighted to be a part of this production with such a talented and fun staff, cast and orchestra. Michael's musical life is deeply enhanced by frequent

collaborations with his two favorite musicians, Brooke and Bennett. He enjoys food, wine, music and cycling, but music is the best.

**René E. Pulliam** (*Choreographer*) From 1993-2019, René Pulliam was head of the BFA program in Musical Theatre at the University of Mississippi. She received her BA in Music from Whittier College in 1972 and her MFA in Dance/Choreography from Mills College in 1992. She has directed and/or choreographed hundreds of musicals across the United States, including the West Coast premiers of *Smile*, *Closer than Ever*, and *Over Here*. She has been awarded the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Award for her choreography on *No, No Nanette* and *Good News*. Her performance credits include television (*The Carol Burnett Show*), commercials (*Dr. Pepper*), and touring companies (*Oklahoma!*, *The King and I*, *Godspell*). She apprenticed with the late rhythm tap dancer Eddie Brown and has shared the stage with such tap legends as Honi Coles, Jimmy Slyde, Bunny Briggs, and the Nicholas Brothers. Most recently she directed *The 39 Steps*, *And Then There Were None*, *Dial M for Murder*, and *Moon Over Buffalo* for The Cumberland County Playhouse. She's excited to be working with her former students John Davenport (Director) and Joe Jackson (Tevye). Many thanks to her husband, Christopher Schager for all his support!

**Carrie White** (*Assistant Choreographer*) is thrilled to serve as the Assistant Choreographer for *Fiddler on the Roof*. A proud graduate of Miami University of Ohio, Carrie earned her degree in 2019 before moving to Oxford in 2020. Currently, she works as the Project Director for the Mississippi Presenters Network at the Powerhouse, and is involved in numerous artistic nonprofits across the state. In addition to her role in the arts, Carrie is also a dedicated real estate agent. Carrie has a passion for choreography and dance, doing both professionally from a young age. *Fiddler* marks her third summer musical at the Ford Center - her favorite time of year! Carrie would like to thank her

husband and Reed for their support of her passions, as well as René for all she has taught her. She couldn't do it without them. Enjoy the show!

**Felipe E. Macias** (*Scenic Designer*) is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Eastern New Mexico University where he was Designer/Technical Director, was named Outstanding Advisor and honored with the Spirit of Eastern award for outstanding achievement as a faculty member. While in New Mexico he served on the board of the New Mexico Alliance for Arts in Education, the Region VI selection committee for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and was, for 10 years, the vice chair for the design wing of the Southwest Theatre and Film Association. Mr. Macias has designed over 150 productions including the world premiere and European tour of the opera *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. Oxford audiences will remember his work from the productions of *The Music Man* and *Oklahoma!*.

**Matt Zerangue** (*Lighting Design*) is Technical Coordinator for the Ford Center for the Performing Arts. He earned a BFA in Performing Arts with a focus on Theater Design and Technology from the University of Louisiana, in 1999. Prior to coming to the Ford Center, Matt was the Technical Director for the Angelle Hall, The University of Louisiana's Concert Hall. He is a scenic and lighting designer. His work includes several seasons with Oxford Shakespeare Festival, UM Opera Theatre, UL Opera and UL State of La Danse and Lafayette Ballet Theatre. He is an U.S. Army Veteran. Having served four years of active duty and four years in the Louisiana National Guard, Matt worked as a Medical Specialist. Awards and recognitions during service include the Expert Field Medical Badge, Soldier of the Year recognition twice awarded, and several Army Achievement Medals. Matt is husband to Michelle and father to Nathan, Noah, Jacob, Evelyn and Benjamin.

**Cory Kosman** (*Sound Design*) Originally from the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio, Cory is currently the Sound Designer for the Department of Theatre

and Film on campus. He has previously designed for Kent State University, Cortland Repertory Theatre, Coercion Theatre, Ole Miss, and The Ford Center. He has also worked for Cedar Point's Live Entertainment Dept., Live Nation, and multiple school districts to help mold young minds in theatre.

**Corey Brittan** (*Costume Design*) is a Costume Shop Manager, Designer, and Technician originally from Michigan. He received his B.A. Theatre from Albion College and holds an M.F.A. in Costume Design from the University of Connecticut. He has previously worked at: Ohio Light Opera, Opera in the Ozarks, Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, Riverside Theatre, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Tibbits Opera House, Theatre at Monmouth, and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

**Meg Winkler** (*Props Master*) Meg Winkler is the current Props Designer with the Department of Theatre and Film here at Ole Miss. Meg earned her B.A. in Technical Theatre and Design from the University of North Texas, and her M.F.A in Stage Properties from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She has worked professionally as a Props Designer, Manager and Artisan for several professional and regional theatres including the Seattle Children's Theatre and the Ogunquit Playhouse.

**Madison Hickey-Riker** (*Stage Manager*) Reprising her role as Stage Manager for the 3rd year in a row, Madison is thrilled to be back. As a lifelong native of Oxford, MS and alumnus of the University, she is thrilled to get to work with such a great and unique group of individuals to put on this production for her hometown. She could not do it without the amazing production team, artistic staff, and wonderful cast members. She owes all her thanks to John Davenport, who started her love for the theatre, and is honored to be back again as his right hand throughout this process. All her love to her friends and family for their support along the way!

# — Thank You! —

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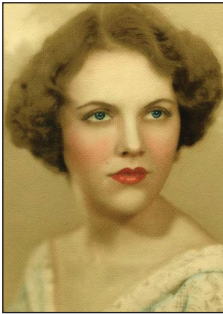
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# About Gertrude Castellow Ford



With an ever-inquisitive mind, Gertrude Castellow Ford fully embraced the arts. As a patron, an observer and a practitioner, Mrs. Ford engaged in a lifelong exploration of all things of beauty and inspiration. Exceedingly well-read in poetry and classic literature, Mrs. Ford was often at the center of spirited discussions about the merits of all manner of literary works. Always at the very foundation of her spirit was a great and sincere love of the arts and letters.

In keeping with a generations-old family tradition of philanthropy, Mrs. Ford established the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation in Jackson, Mississippi, with a very generous gift in 1991 to support the arts in Mississippi. In addition to the donation for the construction of the Ford Center, the Foundation supports the USA International Ballet Competition, the Mississippi Opera, Mississippi Museum of Art, University of Southern Mississippi Orchestra and many others.

Mrs. Ford died in September of 1996. She and her husband, Aaron Lane Ford, who was an Ackerman attorney and U.S. congressman representing what was Mississippi’s 4th District, are buried in Cuthbert, a small town in southwest Georgia.

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