Rachel Hibler

Period 1/3

3/22/2022

Costume Design Statement

Fiddler on the Roof

The World of the Play of Fiddler on the Roof is Anatevka, Ukraine in 1905. The overall design concept of the play will be to show the small world of Anatevka but also hint to a much larger, more powerful world just outside this one. The approach to costumes, set, lights and sound will center on the duality of the worlds in which Tevye exists. All choices should be appropriate to history and maintain an authenticity to the time period. The designs need to keep in mind the themes of loss and a changing outside world.

In the costume design there will be a clear division between the people of Anatevka and the outsider Russians. There will also be a division, more subtle, between the older generation and the younger generation in Anatevka. The costumes of the people of Anatevka will be simple and show the comparatively lower economic class of these people. Certainly there are wealthier members of the town, but generally, the town does not have much money or access to much outside of their town itself. The color palette of Anatevka will be browns, blacks, greys, and simple prints. All Jews in Anatevka will wear head coverings. The men will wear hats while the women will wear head scarves. The older women need to have their hair tied in buns under their scarves. Prayer shawl strings with knots can be seen hanging from under the four corners of all the Jewish men’s shirts. The costumes of the Russian outsiders can be slightly more upper class and have more of a variety of color, but still maintain a simplicity that says they don’t get back to big cities very often. The color palette for the Russians can be less muted with colors such as blues and greens to supplement the browns and blacks. All costumes are layered with an ease to movement and have a lived in feel.