



**Fiddler  
on the  
Roof**

**November 9-12**

**MBUTHEATRETIX.COM**

**MISSOURI BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

School of Performing Arts

# 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

Fiddler on the Roof is presented through special arrangement with  
Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials  
are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

Please silence electronic devices that may distract your fellow audience members during the performance. The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production is strictly prohibited. No food, drink or smoking is allowed in the Pillsbury Chapel. The restrooms are located in the Mabee Great Hall just outside the auditorium.

Please see one of our ushers if you have any questions or special needs. Enjoy the performance—we are glad you're here!

# THE MBU THEATRE MISSION

MBU Theatre is a Christ-centered program that challenges our students to view their work through a Biblical vantage point. We believe that all truth is God's truth, and therefore all great and truthful works of theatre carry within them glimmers of God's redemptive plan.

Because of this foundation, we believe that storytelling through theatre is a calling worthy of intensive training. Graduates from our theatre program will have knowledge of theatre history; acting methods of Stanislavsky, Chekhov, Meisner, Strasburg, and many others; directing technique; and a variety of design areas. We purposefully want education to be broad, but deep - giving students the opportunity to thrive in a transient job market that requires theatre students to work in a variety of positions.

Additionally, we give students ample opportunity to practice these skills. We produce a full season of performances and learning opportunities every year, allowing our students to choose design, tech, or performance and tailor their education to their needs.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Dr. Keith Ross, Dr. Andy Chambers, Dr. Lydia Thebeau,  
Dr. Jordan Cox, Oran Woodworth,  
MBU Communications Department,  
University Communications, Special Events Staff

# PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Director/Producer.....	Kasey Cox
Music Director.....	Michael Frazier
Assistant Director/Stage Manager.....	Ashley Harris
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Makenna Tilley, Haley Clegg
Choreographer.....	Avital Asuleen
Dance Captains.....	Emma Brandwein, Will Launsby
Set Designer.....	Emily Kay Rice
Lighting Designer.....	Tony Anselmo
Sound Designer.....	Hankyu Lee
Costume Designer.....	Lauren Smith Bearden
Props Designer.....	Katie Orr
Technical Director.....	Kevin Ronecker
Fight Director.....	John Wilson
Fight Captain.....	Andrea Reed
Master Carpenter.....	John Davidson
Graphic Designer.....	Ruth Bratcher
Box Office.....	Tia Wright, Brianna Sansoucie

# ORCHESTRA

Conductor.....	Michael Frazier
Violin.....	Ingrid Popp
Cello.....	Marie Brown
Guitar/Mandolin.....	Billy Barnett
Bass.....	Andrew Tinge
Flute.....	Paula Bernhardt
Clarinet.....	José Silva
Trumpet.....	Jason Harris
Trombone.....	Michael Dunsmoor
Percussion.....	Joe Pastor
Keyboard.....	Sarah Walseth

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

There is no musical that my dad and I have bonded more over than *Fiddler on the Roof*. It was the first musical I ever did as a sophomore in high school, and we were both hooked from then on out. We love the characters and the music, but what we really love is that it is a show we can talk about together and continuously find something new about which we can think deeply and learn.

*Fiddler on the Roof* is a favorite and a classic for many, many reasons. Nostalgia, the appeal to family and community traditions, "To Life," "Sunrise, Sunset," and many other beautiful themes and songs throughout the show.

But at its core, *Fiddler on the Roof* is a musical about a community of people who, through their traditions, stay connected, grounded, and joyful in the face of antisemitism and persecution.

What we see depicted in *Fiddler* is a small taste of what Russian Jews actually endured under turn-of-the-century Russian rule. Robert Weinberg wrote in "Pogroms: Anti-Jewish Violence in Modern Russian History," "In the port of Odessa alone, the police reported that at least 400 Jews and 100 non-Jews were killed." This was only one of many pogroms carried out in Russia in 1905.

Now we are seeing anti-Jewish sentiments and violence increase as the war in the Gaza strip rages on. Since 2021, Missouri alone has seen a 100% increase in antisemitic incidents. On Monday a woman in Indiana purposefully crashed her car into a school she mistakenly thought was Jewish. On October 31, FBI Director Christopher Wray said that antisemitic hate crimes are reaching historic levels.

I believe that the greatest pieces of theatre hold space for the fullest expressions of human emotions. In the Golden age cannon, not many musicals attain this in the same way that *Fiddler* does. As Tevye exclaims in one song, "God would like us to be joyful even when our hearts lie panting on the floor." The musical invites us to do the same, while also spurring us to action to fight antisemitism and all kinds of racism wherever it may be.

I hope our production of *Fiddler on the Roof* brings you incredible joy, nostalgia, and a sense of the musical theatre tradition that connects us all. And I also hope that it makes you think and grow and engage with the world to change it for the better.

Thank you for making us a part of your theatre tradition.

*Kasey Cox*

# MUSIC & THEATRE SCHOLARSHIPS

Saturday, November 11, 2023, 9 AM-2 PM

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 9 AM-2 PM

Saturday, March 23, 2024, 9 AM-2 PM

Auditions are for freshman and transfer students who want to pursue any of the following majors:

Musical Theatre (B.F.A./B.M.)

Theatre

Speech/Theatre Secondary Education

Music

Music Education

Commercial Voice

Vocal Performance

Piano Performance

Music with elective studies in Business

Worship Leadership

Please contact the School of Performing Arts at 314-744-5364 or [finearts@mobap.edu](mailto:finearts@mobap.edu) to receive more information or to schedule an audition.



---

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Producer's Club (\$1,000 or more)

David and Lisa Blazer

Tammy Bloebaum

Slick City St. Louis West

Director's Club (\$500 or more)

Ray and Cathy Benton

To financially support the students and mission of MBU Theatre, visit [mobap.edu/give](https://mobap.edu/give) and designate your gift to "Society of Fine Arts".

# CAST

Tevye.....Andrew Larson  
Golde.....Sabrina Furman  
Tzeitel.....Makenzie Pechnik  
Hodel.....Jenny Duncan  
Chava.....Kaylin Penninger  
Motel.....Peter Schaper  
Perchik.....Nick Damon  
Fyedka.....Tommy Freese  
Shprintze.....Peyton Altemeier  
Bielke.....Alexis Curry  
Yente.....Maddie Cook  
Lazar Wolf.....Daniel Johnson  
Constable.....David Blazer  
Fruma Sarah.....Lydia Melton  
Grandmother Tzeitel.....Ally Armstrong  
Rabbi.....Ray Martin  
Shaindel.....April McCandless  
Mendel.....Joey Barker  
Avram/Sasha.....Wesley Nichols  
Mordcha.....Jack Duffner  
Yussel.....Jack Myers  
Fiddler.....Leah Poe

## Bottle Dancers

Sháreon Brown, Gia Danhoff, Olivia Podner, Andrea Reed

## "To Life" Dancers

Peyton Altemeier, Joey Barker, Sháreon Brown, Gia Danhoff,  
Tommy Freese, William Launsby, Sarah Nelson,  
Olivia Podner, Andrea Reed

## Ensemble

Ally Armstrong, Joey Barker, Sháreon Brown, Gia Danhoff,  
Jake Duffner, Eliana Easter, Evelyn Easter, Naomi Griggs,  
Daniel Johnson, William Launsby, Anna Martin, Ray Martin,  
April McCandless, Grace McCandless, Lydia Melton, Jack Myers,  
Sarah Nelson, Wesley Nichols, Olivia Podner, Andrea Reed,  
Tamila Vulakh, Mattie White

## Understudies

*Golde: Mattie White, Yente: Ally Armstrong, Tzeitel: Peyton Altemeier,  
Motel: Joey Barker, Hodel/Chava: Gia Danhoff,  
Perchik: Wesley Nichols, Fyedka: William Launsby*

# SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT ONE

Overture.....	Orchestra
The Village	
Tradition.....	Tevey and Company
Tevey's House	
Matchmaker.....	Tzeitel, Hodel and Chava
If I Were a Rich Man.....	Tevey
Sabbath Prayer.....	Tevey, Golde and Company
The Inn	
To Life.....	Tevey, Lazar Wolf, Villagers and Russians
Outside Tevey's House	
Tevey's Monologue.....	Tevey
Miracle of Miracles.....	Motel and Tzeitel
Tevey's Bedroom	
The Dream.....	Grandmother Tzeitel, Rabbi, Tevey, .....Golde, Fruma Sarah and Company
The Village	
Sunrise, Sunset.....	Tevey, Golde, Perchik, Hodel and Company
Wedding Dance.....	Company

---15-minute Intermission---

## ACT TWO

Entr'acte.....	Orchestra
Tevey's House	
Now I Have Everything.....	Perchik and Hodel
Tevey's Rebuttal.....	Tevey
Do You Love Me?.....	Tevey and Golde
Railroad Station	
Far From the Home I Love.....	Hodel
The Village	
Tevey's House	
Chava, Little Bird.....	Tevey
Anatevka.....	Golde, Yente, Lazar Wolf, .....Mendel, Avram and Company



## BIOGRAPHIES

Peyton Altemeier (Shprintze) is a transfer student pursuing a BFA in musical theatre with a minor in dance. Some of her previous credits include *Les Miserables* (Eponine), *Into the Woods* (Little Red), *The Lightning Thief* (Annabeth), *Newsies* (Race), *Be More Chill* (Chloe), *BIG* (Susan), *Urinetown* (Hope), and *Big Fish* (Josephine). She is thrilled to be back on the MBU stage and to be apart of telling this story!

Tony Anselmo (Lighting Designer) is a St. Louis designer and theatre professional who has worked with numerous companies including Albion Theatre, First Run Theatre, West End Players, Kirkwood Theatre Guild, St. Louis Shakespeare, Upstream Theater, Hawthorne Players and many more. *Fiddler on the Roof* is Tony's first show with MBU.

Ally Armstrong (Ensemble) is thrilled to be in her sophomore season with MBU Theatre. Ally is majoring in theatre. Her previous roles include Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray*, Cassie in *13 The Musical*, Ruth Putnam in *The Crucible* and Chenille in *Junie B. Jones The Musical*. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her along her journey.

Avital Asuleen (Choreographer) has directed and choreographed regional, stock, and educational productions all over the country. A few favorites include *Guys and Dolls* (Bigfork Summer Playhouse), *Beauty and The Beast* (Woodstock Playhouse), *Tarzan* (Berkshire Theatre Group), and *Steel Magnolias* (Gallery Players). Avital resides in NYC where she teaches at a variety of wonderful NYC organizations, including Mark Morris Dance Center and Broadway Dance Center. [asuleen.com](http://asuleen.com)

Joey Barker (Mendel) is in his third year at MBU, studying theatre and dance. He is also part of the coed cheer team. Joey wishes to pursue choreography after completing his studies here at the university. This is Joey's sixth performance at MBU (*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Dancing in the Light 2022*, *Mary Poppins*, *All Is Calm*, *Dancing in the Light 2023*). He has also had the opportunity to help with the production team for (*Junie B. Jones*, Neil Simon's *Fools*, *The Crucible*). In spring 2022, Joey had the honor of competing with the Coed Cheer team for NAIA Nationals. In 2023, the Cheer team won the NCA Championship in Daytona, FL. Joey is beyond excited to help tell the story of *Fiddler on the Roof* and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Lauren Smith Bearden (Costume Designer) is a St. Louis based costume designer and technician. Recent local credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Q-Collective), *Guys and Dolls* (Stray Dog Theatre) and *King Lear* (Ozark Actors Theatre). She also serves as the Costume Director for Clayton High School, and the Jewish Community Center's Youth Theatre. Prior to moving to St. Louis, she completed her MFA in Theatre with an emphasis in costume design and technology at the University of Florida. You can view her work at [www.thecostumesmith.com](http://www.thecostumesmith.com).

David Blazer (Constable) worked for 15 years in Entertainment for Six Flags Theme Parks, where he was the Corporate Music Director and Director of Entertainment for Fiesta Texas, in San Antonio. He was last on the MBU stage when he played Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man*. Other roles have included Carl Hanratty in *Catch Me if You Can*, Herbie in *Gypsy*, Mr. Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Dennis Dupree in *Rock Of Ages*, Mr Cladwell in *Urinetown*, Mr. Simmons in *Memphis* and Melvin P. Thorpe in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. He holds a B.A. in Music (Vocal) from MBU and Masters in HR from Ottawa University.

Emma Brandwein (Dance Captain) is a junior at MBU, majoring in psychology with a minor in dance. She is so excited to be a dance captain for this show. Emma has previously performed with Missouri Ballet Theatre, STL Rhythm Collaborative and Missouri Baptist University. She has choreographed for MBU's Dancing in the Light Concert and Resilience Dance Company's Seen: STL event. Emma also is the Senior Dancers Coordinator and teaches at My King Studio of Dance. You can see her perform this December in Ballet 314's *The Nutcracker: World's Fair* as a flower.

Sháreon Brown (Featured Dancer/Ensemble) is a theatre major in her first semester at MBU. This is her first college production and first musical. She will appear next semester in *Dancing in the Light*. She feels so blessed for the opportunity to learn and share stories in the arts. John 13:7 Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing but you will later."

Haley Clegg (Assistant Stage Manager) is in her junior year at MBU, studying theatre with a music minor. She has previously participated in *Mary Poppins*, *The Tempest* (Trinculo/Adrian), *Junie B. Jones* (ASM), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Liza) and *The Drowning Girls* (Margaret).

Maddie Cook (Yente) is a senior BFA musical theatre major and dance minor. Her previous roles include the title role in *Mary Poppins*; *Stephano/Alonso* in *The Tempest*; *Lenya Zubritsky* in *Fools*; *Dorcas* in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*; *Alice* in *The Drowning Girls*; *Cinderella* in *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*; and *Taylor* in *High School Musical*. She would like to express her gratitude to the amazing staff who go above and beyond to teach us this craft. As well as shout out her family: Mom, Dad, and Riley thank you so much for your constant support.

Kasey Cox (Director/Producer) is the Director of Theatre & Dance at MBU. She is a 2010 graduate of MBU with a degree in musical theatre and a 2014 graduate of Fontbonne University with a master of arts in theatre. She is currently completing a master of fine arts in directing. Kasey's directing credits include *The Crucible* (MBU), *Romeo and Juliet* (Acting Out!), *The Odd Couple: Female Version* (Act Two Theatre Company) and *Steel Magnolias* (Kirkwood Theatre Guild). Some of her favorite roles include Sally (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*), Rosie (*Bye Bye Birdie*) and Jo (*Little Women: The Musical*). She would like to thank her husband Jordan and kids, Noah, Jobi, Katy and Lawson, for keeping her house full of joy.

Alexis Curry (Bielke) is a 5th grader at Independence Elementary School. She is thrilled to be appearing in her first production with Missouri Baptist University. She is so honored to be sharing the stage with this group of incredibly talented individuals. She would like to thank her family for their continued support of her dreams!

Nick Damon (Perchik) is a junior at MBU working toward his BFA in musical theatre. Some of Nick's favorite previous roles at Missouri Baptist have been George Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Reverend Parris in *The Crucible*, and Actor #7 in *All Is Calm* among others. Nick is also in the Chamber Choir, Chorale and improv group The Agency. Nick would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting him and a huge thanks to the entire cast and crew! Hope you enjoy the show!

Gia Danhoff (Featured Dancer/Hodel & Chava u/s) is a freshman BFA musical theatre student with a minor in dance. Gia has been doing theatre since she was in sixth grade and some of her favorite roles have been Anya (Anastasia), Brooke (Legally Blonde), and The Witch (Into The Woods). Gia is ecstatic to be in her first musical at MBU! She would like to thank her parents: for being constant support and allowing her to be a part of this wonderful program, her director Kasey Cox: for giving her this wonderful opportunity, and finally, her friends that fill her with endless amounts of love and joy. She hopes you enjoy the show and learn to love these characters just as much as she does!

Jake Duffner (Mordcha) is performing at MBU for the first time and is pleased to have the opportunity. He is 20 years old and has participated in multiple productions around the STL area. Some notable roles like Abel/Ham in *Children of Eden* and Luis in *American Psycho*. He would like to thank his family and girlfriend for the support!

Jenny Duncan (Hodel) is a senior theatre major with a minor in dance at MBU. Jenny made her professional acting debut as Yellow Girl in *SHOUT! The Mod Musical* this summer at The Paul Bunyan Playhouse and her professional dance debut with STL Rhythm Collaborative in *Live At The Last Hotel*. While at MBU Jenny has played the roles of The Player in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*, Mrs. Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Eurydice in *Eurydice*, Yenchna in *Fools*, May/Mother in *Junie B. Jones*, Ruth in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, Jenny Hil in *Big Fish* and Woman 2 in *Songs for a New World*. She has also served as dance captain, assistant director, lighting designer and student choreographer. Jenny is thankful to play Hodel in her last musical at MBU and is looking forward to performing her senior capstone in December!

Eliana Easter (Ensemble) is in third grade and excited to take part in her first musical. She loves going up to her dad's school for practice. Eliana enjoys writing stories about animals and playing with her dog. She has a heart for God and for serving his people.

Evelyn Easter (Ensemble) is in 7th grade and excited to take part in her third musical at MBU. She was in *The Music Man* in 2019 and *Mary Poppins* in 2022. Evelyn loves theatre and reading. She enjoys youth group and hanging out with friends. Evelyn has a generous spirit and loves God's people.

Michael Frazier (Music Director) has been working as a musician in the St. Louis area for the past 25 years. As pianist, conductor, and music director he has worked on over 50 musicals including *Les Miserables*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Spitfire Grill* (AFL winner for Best Music Direction), *The Music Man*, *Bye Bye Birdie* and many more. Michael has been music directing shows with MBU Theatre for over a decade, including *Mary Poppins*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Anything Goes*.

Tommy Freese (Fyedka) is returning to the MBU stage after appearing in *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. He is currently a student at St. Louis Community College. Tommy has done shows at Marquette High School, including *Legally Blonde*, *Almost Maine*, *The Theory of Relativity* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Tommy very excited to perform one of his favorite shows with the MBU community.

Sabrina Furman (Golde) is excited to be in this amazing production. Sabrina is a senior majoring in speech/theatre education with a minor in dance. Among her favorite roles have been Miss Andrew (*Mary Poppins*), Alice (*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*), Josephine (*Big Fish*), and Urleen (*Footloose*). Sabrina would like to thank Kasey Cox for giving her this opportunity. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their love and support. Jeremiah 29:11

Naomi Griggs (Ensemble) is honored to be performing in *Fiddler on the Roof* this year, her second production with at MBU. Her credits include *Mary Poppins* (MBU Theatre), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Young People's Theater, SCCC), *The Ransom of Emily Jane* (Living Water Academy), *Mary Poppins* (Spotlight Productions), *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Devine Performing Arts), as well as five musicals with the Fellowship of Wildwood's Music & Missions ministry. Naomi is an 8th grader at Living Water Academy, and enjoys hanging out with friends, riding her bike, solving the Rubik's cube, singing, dancing and swimming.

Ashley Harris (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) is a senior secondary education speech/theatre major with a double minor in dance and psychology. She would like to thank Kasey Cox for this opportunity and Makenna Tilley for her support and assistance. Lastly she would like to thank her mom and boyfriend for their unwavering support.

Daniel Johnson (Lazar Wolf) returned to the stage four years ago and was most recently seen on stage in the role of Bert Bratt in the Monroe Actors Stage Company's production of *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* earlier this fall. He has been happily married to his wife, Karen for over 30 years and has 3 adult children. Daniel is grateful to the MBU Theatre family for their warm welcome and the opportunity to fulfill a "bucket list" role.

Andrew Larson is an alum of Missouri Baptist University with a bachelor of music in vocal performance. He has performed with MBU Theatre as well as Winter Opera St. Louis and Next Generation Theatre, including the Midwest regional premiere of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. He would like to thank Director Kasey Cox and the entire MBU Theatre cast and crew for welcoming him back; his parents, family, and friends for their continued love and support, and his Heavenly Father for sustaining him and blessing him with this opportunity to glorify Him in Jesus' name.

William Launsby (Dance Captain/Russian) is excited to return to his alma mater ('23). Since graduation, William spent his summer in Wichita, KS with 'Music Theatre Wichita' and has continued his training at various studios across NYC, Chicago, Wichita, and St. Louis. You may recognize him from MBU's *The Crucible* (John Proctor), *Mary Poppins* (Dance Captain/Robertson Ay), or *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Dance Captain/Caleb). William would like to thank the Lord for the opportunity and gifts he has been blessed with, as well as the amazing crew for their wonderful work and patience. [www.WilliamLaunsby.com](http://www.WilliamLaunsby.com) IG: @willlaunsby

Hankyu Lee (Sound Designer) is joining MBU Theatre for the first time with *Fiddler on the Roof*. He studied sound design at Sangmyung University and the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He has served as a sound designer/engineer for the Arts Council Korea and taught sound design at Southeast Missouri State University.

Anna Martin (Ensemble) is excited to appear in her first show with MBU Theatre. A huge thanks to her family and friends for their love and support.

Ray Martin (Rabbi) is excited for his second production at Missouri Baptist University. His favorite roles over the last 23 years were Grandpa Joe in *Willy Wonka*, Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!*, Fieldzig in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, The Lion and Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, Sam Carmichael in *Mamma Mia*, and The Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods*. In real life he has an actuarial consulting practice and his hobbies include scuba and raising seahorses. He wants to thank the Lord, his wife and children.

April McCandless (Shaindel/Ensemble) is happy to be appearing in her first show with MBU Theatre! She graduated from Stephens College with a BFA in Theater Arts. Since graduating, April has found her passion directing musicals for children and teen performers and now serves as the Musical Theatre coordinator at Dayspring Arts & Education. April has directed more than twelve musicals at Dayspring. Some of her favorites have been *Seussical*(2013), *The Little Mermaid*(2014), and *Jane Eyre*(2015).

Grace McCandless (Ensemble) is thrilled to perform in *Fiddler on the Roof* alongside her mom! This is her first show with MBU Theatre. She thanks her family and friends for supporting her and coming to see her onstage.

Lydia Melton (Fruma Sarah) is glad to be back at MBU for another great show. She has previously appeared in *The Crucible* as *Mercy Lewis* and Barbara in *Night of the Living Dead*. She thanks all her friends and family for their love and support.

Jack Myers (Yussel) is happily returning to appear in his second MBU production. He was last seen here as Mr. Sander in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. He thanks his friends for supporting him and coming to see the show!

Sarah Nelson (ensemble) is a freshman theatre major with a double minor in music and dance. Some of her favorite roles have been Queen Gertrude (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*), Dorothy (*The Wizard of Oz*), and Ariel (*The Little Mermaid*). She is so excited to be in her second MBU Theatre production, and a part of such an incredible cast. She hopes this story will resonate with audiences and is thankful for her wonderful family and friends who continue to support her always.

Wesley Nichols (Avram/Sasha) is a junior Music major, returning for his second MBU Theatre production. His last show was *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. Wesley is a member of MBU Chorale and Chamber Singers. He will appear later this semester as a soloist in STL Rhythm Collaborative's "mostly Holidays" production.

Katie Orr (Props Designer) is a theatre graduate of Stephens College. She is pleased to back for another season with MBU Theatre after designing props for *Mary Poppins* and *The Crucible*.

Makenzie Pechnik (Tzeitel) is a freshmen BFA musical theatre student with a minor in psychology. Some of her favorite roles include the Baker's Wife (*Into the Woods*), Janet (*The Drowsy Chaperone*), and Vivienne (*Legally Blonde*). She is extremely excited to be a part of her first production with MBU and can't wait for the many years to come. She wants to thank her friends, family, and professors for supporting her and allowing her creative freedom. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Kaylin Penninger (Chava) is a senior BFA musical theatre major with a dance minor. Some of her favorite roles include Alice Murphy (*Bright Star*) for which she won an Arts For Life Best Leading Actress award, Jo March (*Little Women*), and Millie (*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*). She is very thankful to her family, partner, friends, castmates, and professors for always encouraging her and giving her a safe environment to practice her craft. She is especially grateful to Kasey Cox for her constant encouragement, direction, and grace over the last four years. Leaving this place will be so bittersweet, but the future holds so much hope because of the things she has learned and the people she has met at MBU. She loves you all!

Olivia Podner (Ensemble) is a sophomore theatre major. Olivia has played Ambassador/Tragedian in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Betty Parris in *The Crucible*, and ensemble in *Mary Poppins* and *The Tempest*. Olivia is excited to see what comes next for her as she continues here at MBU.

Emily Kay Rice (Set Designer) is an MBU Theatre graduate. She works as a designer and commissioned artist around the St. Louis area. Since graduation, she has been able to work with many groups, including Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis and Mustard Seed Theatre. Scenic designs at MBU include *The Crucible*, *The Music Man*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. Emily thanks all her amazing friends at MBU and her family for their support.

Andrea Reed (Featured Dancer/Fight Captain) is studying speech/theatre at MBU. She has previously studied at the NIU Conservatory of Theatre and Dance where she trained in the art of stage combat/violence and dialect work. Previous roles include Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and Valerie Clark in *A Chorus Line*.

Kevin Ronecker (Technical Director) is an MBU Alum, Class of 2012, and has worked with many dance groups and theatre productions over the past 15 years. He has a background in audio engineering, event management and stage design. He is very excited to work again with MBU Theatre on this production.

Peter Schaper (Motel) is excited to be performing with MBU Theatre again. Some of his more recent roles have been Actor 6 in *All is Calm*, Von Hussler in *Mary Poppins* at MBU and Michael Mell in *Be More Chill* through O'Fallon Theatre Works.

Makenna Tilley (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore speech/theatre education major. She would like to thank her family for all their support as well as Kasey Cox and Ashley Harris for giving her this opportunity. Lastly, she would like to thank this amazing cast and designers for making her job such a blessing! Luke 1:45

Tamila Vulakh (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her MBU Theatre debut. Favorite previous shows include: *Hairspray*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Pajama Game*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *9 to 5* and *Sister Act*. Thank you to the cast and crew for making this such a memorable experience. This show is dedicated to her family, who immigrated from the Ukraine and is still keeping up with all the "Traditions."

Mattie White (Ensemble) is a freshman, pursuing a BFA in musical theatre. This is her first show at MBU! She thanks Mrs. Cox and the rest of the production team for their hard work and instruction.

Missouri Baptist University School of Performing Arts  
is proud to have STL Rhythm Collaborative as  
Artists-in-Residence for the 2023-2024 school year.  
Find upcoming performances, classes, tickets, merchandise and  
more at [www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org](http://www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org)



Get more info &  
register for class!



## moSTLY Holidays Master Classes!

Join us on stage!  
Saturday, December 2, 2023

10:00-11:00am  
Open Level Tap  
(recommended for beginners)

11:00-12:00pm  
Intermediate Tap

Plus!  
Get \$5 off your  
show ticket when  
you register for  
class!

On December 1-3, 2023, STL Rhythm Collaborative will present "moSTLY Holidays," a live music and dance holiday celebration, featuring their professional ensembles, moSTLY TAP & moSTLY JAZZ. The production is perfect for all ages and includes a pre-show hot chocolate reception. Plus, a professional photographer will be on hand to take family holiday portraits.

Join members of moSTLY TAP on the stage at Missouri Baptist University on Saturday, December 2 for these holiday themed tap dance master classes. Both classes are recommended for ages 10-adult. Register for class and get a special promo code for \$5 off your ticket to the show! Master Class Fee: \$25 per person  
Missouri Baptist students can register for the master classes free of charge.



**MOSTLY HOLIDAYS**  
**AT MISSOURI BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**  
**DECEMBER 1ST-3RD, 2023**



# DRURY HOTELS

[www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com)

---

Good Luck  
Jenny!  
From your  
friends at SLT



SIKESTON  
LITTLE  
THEATRE

---

*Jenny*

Senior year - how can it be?  
You make us so proud.  
We can't wait to see God's  
next chapter for your life.  
Love, Mom & Dad



# 2023-2024 Events

Tickets available at  
**MBUTHEATRETIX.COM**

## **Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead**

August 31-September 3, 2023

## **Fall Choral Concert\***

October 13, 2023, 7:30 PM

## **MBU Ringers & Band Concert\***

October 17, 2023, 7:30 PM

## **Fiddler on the Roof**

November 9-12, 2023

## **Christmas at MBU\***

December 8, 2023, 7:30 PM

## **Senior Capstone Festival**

December 9, 2023

Performances at Dayspring Arts & Education Black Box

## **Twelve Angry Jurors**

February 15-18, 2024

Performances at Tower Grove Church

## **STL Rhythm Collaborative in "Latin Pulse" & MBU Dance in "Dancing in the Light"**

March 22-24, 2024

Tickets at [stlrhythmcollaborative.org](http://stlrhythmcollaborative.org)

## **BFA Showcase & Alumni Cabaret**

April 13, 2024, 7:30 PM

## **MBU Ringers & Band Concert\***

April 16, 2024, 7:30 PM

## **Spring Choral Concert\***

April 19, 2024, 7:30 PM

## **Myriad: Acting Showcase**

April 21, 2024, 2:00 PM

## **Chamber Singers Concert\***

February 23, 2024, 7:30 PM

