

Marina Pierce

April 27, 2025

Marina Pierce: Yeah. This is great.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thank you. Yeah, it's quite small. Um. It's okay. Uh, will you say your name, please, for me?

Marina Pierce: My name is Marina Pearce.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thanks. And do I have your consent to record this?

Marina Pierce: You do?

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Great. Um, can you tell me what is your connection to the Jewish community or to Fiddler on the roof?

Marina Pierce: Yeah. So I have long connections to both. Um, my family is Jewish. We weren't raised, like, religious, really, but we were culturally Jewish. And I like to kind of associate my relationship growing up with my Jewish culture, as were, like the Easter Christian equivalents of Jews. And so but, um, I always felt really connected and happy with Passover and, um, Hanukkah and all that. And so I when I kind of entered my adolescence, I started really wanting to explore it more. And so that was when I started to get more in depth researching into what does being a Jew look like? Because it's always something that I knew was just a fact about my heritage and my life and my family, but I hadn't actually questioned what that meant because we weren't really that in depth in the community, you know. And so in probably the last ten years, I have put a lot more of my energy into that. And it's felt really meaningful and grounding in a way. Um, and then with Fiddler on the roof, my family. So I'm a only child, single parent situation, and my mom was an actor my entire life. She still is. And now she's a drama teacher. But, um, I have been raised listening to Golden Age musical theater since before I could speak. And so I really sorry. I forgot how to say words. Um, but he.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Just performed an entire.

Marina Pierce: I just did, I just did. It's been it's been a long week. Um, but I remember first watching the movie when I was probably seven, eight, and then it was a yearly watch. And usually I would choose to watch it by myself. And it was it was great. And when Lonny Lonnie called me and said, can you come play Hodl? I was like, oh my God, oh my God. Absolutely. Absolutely. It was a dream come true.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Awesome. Thanks so much for sharing that. Yeah. Um, do you live on Whidbey?

Marina Pierce: I don't, I live in Seattle.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Okay. And do you find any are there any Jewish community hubs that you kind of gravitate to there?

Marina Pierce: Well, theater in itself is kind of a Jewish hub. I mean, um, there's a song in Spamalot called You Won't Succeed on Broadway if you don't have any Jews to kind of which is which is great. It's a great song. But, um, the there's, there's a there's a lot of Jews in theater and that's been both my entire life. And so that's also been a touchstone for me. Like, I remember I went to school with an amazing family who they would make, um, show themed menorahs. And so, um, I wasn't in this production, but I remember them posting, um, photos of when their kids were in A Christmas story and the menorah they made were all the little leg lamps. And so there's a lot of Jews in theater.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thank you so much. This is really great.