Washington State JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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EJ Bergevin

SUMMARY

EJ Bergevin shares their long-standing connection with "Fiddler On The Roof" and their joy at playing in the show at present. EJ Bergevin shares about their family's lifelong tradition of music.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Um, can you say your name for me, please?

EJ Bergevin: My name is EJ Bergevin.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: And may I have your consent to record this interview?

EJ Bergevin: For sure.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thank you.

EJ Bergevin: Yeah.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: So I wanted to ask, what is your relationship to the Jewish community or to Fiddler on the Roof?

EJ Bergevin: Yeah. Um, I have been watching this film since I was a little, a little person. Um, the 1971 version, I think. Um, so, I don't know, it's really close to my family's heart, and it's definitely close to mine. Um, and I was just really honored to be able to play a role with this community. Um, I played the role of Tevya when I was nine, like, almost 20 years ago now. Um, and so that was really special to me. And when I found out that they were doing this production here, I was like, oh, well, I have to go throw my adult self back into servicing this art for sure. Yeah.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Amazing.

EJ Bergevin: Thank you.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Um. The theme of tradition. Are there any traditions that your family keeps that you have changed or not changed? And what does that bring to mind for you?

EJ Bergevin: Um, my family is, uh, chronically diagnosed as musicians. And so I think the biggest tradition for us is whenever we get together, we make a lot of music. And, um, it's just special to kind of get to do that outside of your family, obviously. But, um, bringing back to your family the engagement that you have with other community members through the same music is really powerful, because I think every time you get to sing this same kind of even these tracks, it has like another layer of love for other people that you know and appreciate. So I think definitely making music has been a lifelong tradition for us. Yeah.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: That's so sweet.

EJ Bergevin: Thank you.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Are you based in Seattle or Whidbey?

EJ Bergevin: I am based in Seattle. Yeah, I grew up in Everett, though, so Whidbey is very close to home. Yeah.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thanks so much for participating.

EJ Bergevin: Yeah. Thank you so much for having me.