

# FIRST BITE

## NEW PLAY ZOOM READING



# “The Golden Ibburs”

Inspired by the Yiddish opera *Shulamis*

By MFA Candidate  
Cyndi Feinman  
Directed by Jere Lee Hodgkin



University of Idaho  
Department of Theatre Arts

# CAST

David Golden.....Steve Sherman  
Joyce Fine.....Fatemeh Mehraban  
Abe Golden.....Bruce Barton  
Jane Golden.....Phyllis Lindy  
Kit Rosen.....Allison Siko  
Lisa Golden.....Heather Violanti

# ARTISTIC TEAM

Playwright.....Cyndi Feinman  
Director.....Jere Hodgkin  
Technical Supervisor.....Cesar Reyes

# CAST BIOS



Steve Sherman (David Golden) received his MFA in Acting from the University of Tennessee in 2016 and is currently in his seventh year as a lecturer in acting at UT. Favorite roles including Caleb The Whipping Man, Patsy in Spamalot!, Leo in 4000 Miles, George in Of Mice & Men, Jack in The Open Hand, Robbie in Bloomsday, and Felix in The Odd Couple. He has worked as an actor and playwright all over the country including the new work process at The Kennedy Center, O'Neill Theatre Center and Horizon Theatre in Atlanta. As an undergraduate at Western Washington University, he was nationally recognized by the Kennedy Center for his one-act play Brian and Joe. On camera work includes independent films and commercials, including the lead in a worldwide commercial this year. He has written eight full length plays, an award-winning short film, The Piano Love Affair, and his feature based on Brian and Joe is currently in development. His most favorite role is being a dad to his son Will, and daughter Ella. [www.SteveMSherman.com](http://www.SteveMSherman.com)

# CAST BIOS *Continued*



Fatemeh is a queer Iranian performing artist based in Northern California. She received her associate's degree in theatre arts from American River College. She has had the privilege of participating in various theatrical productions ranging from classics, staged readings, devised works, and musicals. Her most recent work includes THE NEWLYWED GAME (B Street Theatre), GEORGIANA & KITTY (Capital Stage), TWELFTH NIGHT (California Stage), THE MOST MASSIVE WOMAN WINS (Capital Stage), FOR THE LOVE OF DOG (The Stage at Burke Junction), and SAWYER THOMPSON (The Geery Theatre). Fatemeh is beyond thrilled to be invited to read THE GOLDEN IBBURS by Cyndi Feinman for the University of Idaho. Instagram: @fatemeow



Bruce (Abe Golden) is always pleased to have a chance to contribute to a new, original play. An NYC-based actor, he has had the privilege of appearing in a dozen shows at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, VA, including AMADEUS (Von Swieten), OLIVER! (Fagin), SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE (Mr.) and HAMLET (Osric). He has also performed at other regional theaters around the country, and recently appeared in NYC in Shakespeare's CORIOLANUS as Meninius Agrippa with the Hudson Classical Theater Company for whom he is a Company Member.



Having performed in Cyndi Feiman's staged reading of "The Bee vs. The People" this fall at the Theatre for the New City's "Dream Up Festival", Phyllis Lindy (Jane Golden) is thrilled to be working with Cyndi again and everyone in the First Bite reading series. Last year, Phyllis was nominated for 2023 Best Lead Actor in a Play by "Broadway World". She had a recurring role in the online sci-fi series, "Wormholes," an Astoria Film Festival 2022 Best Series Award & 2021 Audience Award winner. Recent New York Off-Broadway productions include Coney Island Nursery Rhyme (World Premiere), The Cake (Della Brady), Bye-bye Birdie (Mae Peterson), A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mame (Auntie Mame), Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike (Sonia) In 2015, Phyllis was honored with a Best Actress nomination at the Thespis Theater Festival in NYC. 2024 films include appearances in Searchlight Pictures (continued)

# CAST BIOS *Continued*

(Phyllis Lindy, continued) “A Complete Unknown” and Whitney Engstrom’s debut film “ Stinky Fish”. A founding member & producer of the Womenkind Festival in NYC, Phyllis created and performed solo-works to celebrate Women’s History Month. [www.phyllislindy.com](http://www.phyllislindy.com)



Allison Siko (she/her) is an NYC based actor/singer/writer/creative with a BFA in Acting from Rutgers University and training from Shakespeare's Globe (London) in the classics and stage combat. Previous credits include: Film (Speak, Zero Avenue), Television (Law & Order: SVU/Organized Crime, SNL), Theater (Paper Mill Playhouse, Abingdon Theater, American Theater of Actors), Commercials, and numerous Readings/Workshops including 12 years with The Seven Devils Playwright’s Conference in McCall, Idaho. For more information visit [allisonsiko.com](http://allisonsiko.com) or find @allisonsiko on all social media.



Heather Violanti (Lisa Golden) is excited to be part of this reading of "The Golden Ibbers." She recently played Mrs. Holly in "Suddenly Last Summer" at the Staten Island Playwrights Theatre. This summer, her play “Thank You for Being a Friend” had a reading in the digital portion of the Rogue Theatre Festival.

## ARTISTIC TEAM BIOS



Cyndi Feinman (she/her) (Playwright) is a New York based playwright, director, lighting designer, and theatre creator. Cyndi has received numerous accolades for her work including recognition at the New York Play Festival for her plays, Discovering Sylvia and The Bee vs The People. Recently her work was seen in NYC's Theatre for the New City's most recent play festival. Cyndi is also a member playwright in Westchester Collaborative Theatre. (continued)

# ARTISTIC TEAM BIOS *Continued*

(Cyndi Feinman, continued) In the spring of 2023, Cyndi's production of Anastasia won "Best Overall Production" at the prestigious Metro Awards for High School Excellence in Theatre. Cyndi Feinman also created the Eastern Student Artist Guild, a non-profit organization in collaboration with Manhattanville College, to bring plays without music recognition in high schools across the Northeast. Students from around Westchester have the opportunity to showcase work from plays without music for a chance to win scholarships and acceptances to college. This program is free for schools to participate in order to create equitable access to theatre for all students. Thank you to my family who supports all of my theatre making, and the wonderful artists I get to work with! [www.cyndifeinman.com](http://www.cyndifeinman.com)



Jere Hodgkin (Director) has produced over 200 productions, many of which were new and premiere works, and his directing career includes more than 250 plays, operas, and musicals. For 20 years, Jere was the Producing Artistic Director of Mill Mountain Theatre in Virginia, where he founded the nationally recognized Norfolk Southern New Play Festival. Jere also served as Artistic Director for Idaho Repertory Theatre and Co-Producer/Artistic Director of Highlands Playhouse in North Carolina and has directed internationally and at numerous theatres across the country including The Fulton Opera, Walnut Street Theatre, The Barter Theatre, Salt Lake Acting Company, Theatre Artists Studio,

Phoenix Theatre, and Montana Repertory Theatre. He has directed at Shenandoah Playwright's Retreat, Montana Rep's Missoula Colony, NW Playwright's Alliance/ Seattle Repertory Theatre, Native Voices, 7 Devils New Play Foundry Conference, Westival Playwrights Festival, and The Phoenix Theatre New Play Festival. Jere is a past president of the Southeastern Theatre Conference. He served as Vice President of the board of The National Alliance for Musical Theatre. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), Actor's Equity Association, and the National Theatre Conference. He is the recipient of the Perry F. Kendig Arts and Culture Award for outstanding support of arts in SW Virginia and Citizen of the Year Award for Roanoke, VA.



Cesar Reyes (Technical Supervisor) is delighted to be part of The Golden Ibburs. He is a graduate of the University of Idaho Theatre MFA program. He's currently in the bay area and works with theatre companies across the country to make plays accessible to audiences everywhere through Zoom.