

June 3, 2014

Summer Stock...and the Yiddish is Streaming!

Memorial Day weekend has come and gone, and you know what that means: It's time to pack up the kids and the car and head up to the Catskills to escape from the city with a few hundred of your friends. Your full-service resort getaway includes dining, dancing and, of course, the famous Borscht Belt theater circuit, featuring many of the acts that will end up on Second Ave or even Broadway.

For those for whom early 20th-century upstate NY is too much of a schlep, the Milken Archive of Jewish Music is bringing the full Catskills experience to

you! This June and July, we've put together a free program of summer stock theater highlights that'll take you back to the heyday. Featuring the "big four" composers of Yiddish theater (Ellstein, Secunda, Rumshinsky and Olshanetsky), we have songs, movies and articles sure to make it the virtual event of the season. It's rumored that the Andrews Sisters may even stop by to sing their popular hit song!

This Week in the (Virtual) Catskills

Screening Room



Two stars of Second Avenue—Seymour Rechtzeit and Miriam Kressyn discuss performing Yiddish theater with Neil Levin.

Library



Reading Neil Levin's introductory essay to our Yiddish theater volume might make you the smartest talmyd in the Borscht Belt.

Day Trip



June 9: Back in New York, the National Yiddish Theatre - Folksbiene celebrates both its centennial and Fiddler on the Roof's 50th anniversary.

Unlike a summer in the posh resorts of the Catskills, our summer stock program is completely free. (Okay, it doesn't come with dining and dance lessons, either...but maybe next year!) Week one is already underway, featuring performances from *Mamele*, the smash hit by Abraham Ellstein and Molly Picon with some dynamic assistance from Elizabeth Shamash and Robert Bloch. Everyone who's anyone in the community will be there. So, what are you waiting for?