

= Herb Mitchell ( actor ) =

Herbert L. Mitchell , Jr . ( June 18 , 1937 ? January 4 , 2011 ) , credited as Herb Mitchell and sometimes Herb L. Mitchell , was an American actor , director , and teacher . He was a stockbroker before he made the switch to acting , appearing in films ; stage plays such as *The Fiddler on the Roof* , in which he played the lead role of Tevye ; television shows including *The Practice* , on which he had a recurring role ; and commercials , including ones for stock brokerage firms Dean Witter Reynolds and Paine Webber . He was married twice and had five children .

= = Early life = =

Herb Mitchell was born June 18 , 1937 , in Bar Harbor , Maine . He was one of three sons of Herbert L. Mitchell , Sr. , and Estella Mae Bourgeois Mitchell . He grew up in Bar Harbor , where he attended local schools , served as an altar boy in the local Catholic church , and participated in high school sports . Following studies at the University of Maine and the Maine Maritime Academy , he became a stockbroker in Bangor , Maine .

= = Acting career = =

In the late 1960s , Mitchell joined a community theater group in Ellsworth , Maine , the Ellsworth Players ; he eventually became its president . He was purely a behind @-@ the @-@ scenes participant in the group 's stage productions until 1971 , when director Bill Raiten persuaded him to take the role of Tevye in a production of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* . His portrayal won praise , including a favorable review by playwright Samuel A. Taylor . A New York City producer who saw the show offered Mitchell a chance to play the same role in an off @-@ Broadway production of the musical in Brooklyn . Mitchell , as the father of four children , felt committed to his financial career and declined the offer . However , he continued to act in local productions in the following years , became disenchanted with his job , and decided to pursue acting as a profession .

During the 1970s , he became co @-@ owner of a jazz club and bar that operated seasonally in Maine ; he spent the off @-@ season acting on stage in southern California . He auditioned for the television series *M \* A \* S \* H* ( 1972 ? 83 ) without success . By 1980 , he was working in Los Angeles as an actor , appearing in films , television programs , live performances , and commercials . He portrayed roles in commercials for stock brokerage firms Dean Witter , as the company spokesman , and Paine Webber , as an executive .

In 1992 , while living in Los Angeles , Mitchell bought a home in Blue Hill , Maine . In the early 1990s , he operated the Company of CharActors Theatre , which performed stage plays , one of which he directed , in Studio City , California . In the 1993 film *Gettysburg* , set during the American Civil War ( 1861 ? 65 ) , he portrayed the real @-@ life Union Army flag bearer Sergeant Andrew Jackson Tozier . In the early to mid @-@ 2000s , he survived three cancers and then moved back to Blue Hill with his family , where he semi @-@ retired while occasionally appearing in local stage productions .

He reprised his role as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* in May 1990 and August 2006 , again directed by Raiten . He appeared in the television courtroom drama series *The Practice* ( 1997 ? 2004 ) as the recurring character Judge Rodney White . In August 2006 he appeared at Ellsworth High School , in Ellsworth , Maine , as Eddie Carbone in a production of Arthur Miller 's play *A View from the Bridge* . Over the years , he was mentored in singing by Sheldon Bisberg , " his longtime musical collaborator " .

= = Personal life and death = =

Mitchell was the father of four children with his first wife , Scarlett Kinney , and one daughter with his second wife , Janet Ahearn . At the time of his death he also was a grandfather of four . On January 4 , 2011 , he died in the Blue Hill home of his daughter Kathy and her husband .

= = Selected performances = =

Fiddler on the Roof ( 1971 , 1990 , 2006 ) , Tevye ? theatrical productions

Dean Witter commercials ( 1980s ? 90s ) , spokesman ? now called Dean Witter Reynolds

Paine Webber commercials ( circa 1980s @-@ 90s ) , executive

Gettysburg ( 1993 ) , Sergeant Andrew Jackson Tozier ? Tozier was in his 20s at the time of war

The Practice ( 1997 ? 2004 ) , Judge Rodney White ? recurring role in the television series

A View from the Bridge ( 2006 ) , Eddie Carbone ? high school production