

Colombe

By **Jean Anouilh**

Play no. 262

Opening show : 19/08/1974

Creative team

Hebrew by : Zvi Rosen

Directed by: Costumes : Adrian Vaux

Setting: Eli Sinai

Costumes: Ruth Dar

Music: Poldi Shatzman

Lighting: Micael Lieberman

Cast

Julien: Israel Biderman

Colombe: Dalia Friedland

Georges: Ada Tal

Mm Alexandra: Lia Konig

Hairdresser: Yaakov Ashkenazi

Surette: Shai Danon

Pierre: Azriel Asherov

Robient: Alexander Peleg

Desfournettes: Eliezer Yung

Legarde: Zvi Stolper

Pedicuriat: David Shahar

Manicurist: Benny Apolo

Julien has fallen in love with Colombe, a young florist-shop helper. The play opens after they have been married for two years. Julien, refusing to take advantage of his mother's influence, is about to do his military service, and he has come to ask his mother, Madame Alexandra the grate tragedienne, to look after his young wife Colombe during his absence. It becomes apparent almost immediately that Colombe and Julien are members of different races. He is all intractability and seriousness; she is gaiety and facility. The paste and powder of the theater appeal to her at once and she readily accepts its artificiality. When Julien returns on leave he discovers that Colombe has fallen into a life of compromise; she is no longer the pure young woman he loved. It becomes apparent that she was never the woman he believed her to be. The Colombe he loves exists only in his imagination.

The two races confront each other in Julien and Colombe:

For Julien, life is ugly. Like the earlier heroes, he desires an unconditional purity that conforms to his inner image of himself and of Colombe. But Anouilh paints him in so unfavorable a light – as boorish and pedantic – that we feel Anouilh has for one failed to favor his heroic race in its struggle with the mediocre. When Julien describes his father – an impossible rigorous and misanthropic individual with no sense of humor, who committed suicide when his wife deserted him after three weeks of marriage – he is also describing himself. If Julien is truly his father's son, he too will kill himself after the death of his ideal. His brother Armand, on the other hand, is his mother's son – given to false brilliance and the easy compromise, "What do you expect, old chap", he says to Julien, trying to excuse himself for having seduced Colombe, "facility, temptation... You know how it is" Julien can only answer with a wild roar, "No, I don't know how it is! I'll never know how it is".