

Dreyfus

By **Jean-Claude Grumberg**

Play no. 301

Opening show: 12/08/1975

Creative team

Hebrew By: Tirza Atar

Directed by: Leonard Schach

Set and Costumes by : Joseph Karl

Lighting by: Natan Panturin

Cast

Maurice: Alex Peleg

Micha: Ariel Furman

Motel: Shmuel Rudenski

Arnold: Shimon Finkel

Zina: Lia Koenig

Zalman: Israel Rubinchik

Myriam: Tehia Shmueli

D. Wasselbaum: Eliezer Yung

Bronislaw: Eitan Priver, Pavel Czolczinski

Yanek: Menachem Eini

The entire action takes place in the hall of a Jewish Community centre in a small town in Poland. This hall is sometimes used as a theatre by the local Jewish amateur society. The year is about 1932.

A rehearsal is in progress. This year the local amateur group is presenting a play written by one of its own members, the radical Maurice (who is also directing the play), . This play is called Dreyfus and Maurice approaches the famous affair from a purely objective international and radical point of view.

His cast, however, cannot identify themselves with something that happened in another country: they do not understand how it could have happened and don't want to know how it really happened.

The rehearsals proceed. The temperaments, pomposities, conceits of these amateurs: the way their private lives interfere with the work in rehearsal. They live in a world of their own: their own inner reality. The outside world does not affect them. A Zionist propagandist arrives to address the local community. The actors help to rehearse his speech for him but they are only concerned with the form it will have: they have no interest at all in its significant content. At the dress rehearsal, they are forced to take notice of a world outside their own little theatrical dream world of isolation. A drunken mob of Polish fascists terrorise the actors. In that one moment they find themselves. They face reality.

Their resolution, alas, is a bitter ironical one. The radical Maurice goes off to Warsaw to join the peoples party, where he writes, no racial barrier exist. Shoemaker Micha and his young bride Miriam choose to go to Berlin where, they write, the people are so educated and remember their last one war and will not start trouble again. The elder trio, Arnold the barber, Zina, his girlfriend, Motti the tailor remain happily at home, confident of a peaceful future and start Shalom Aleichems Tevye.

The story of their abandoned play "Dreyfus" is forgotten, its lesson is not learned. People believe what they want to believe.