

Yerma

By **F. G. Lorca**

Play no. 424

Opening show 20/04/1991

Creative team

Hebrew Version: Rina Litvin

Directed by: Michae Porat

Set and Costumes: Frida Klapholtz

Music By: Yossi Ben-Num

Vocal Coach: Rachel Hochman

Lighting: Natan Panturin

Cast

Yerma: Nava Ziv

Juan: Yoel Drori

Maria: Dina Blay

Victor: Igal Sadei

Pagan Crone: Ada Tal

Juan: Yoel Drori

Young Girl: Lea Avraham

Young Girl: Amira Polan

Dolores: Dalia Friedlland

The child: Natanel Danoch

The sisters-in-law: Dvora Miller, Dalia Rodnitzky

A village woman named Yerma ("Barren") is trapped in a childless marriage. Her one ambition in life is to become a mother, and she spends years of unhappy matrimony lamenting her barrenness and speculating on its reasons. She also consults the diverse women of her village, young and old, including the Pagan crone – the life-loving sensual outcast, who offers Yerma a way out, which Yerma cannot accept. Divorce is not an available solution (the drama takes place in a Catholic society); adoption will not suffice because what Yerma craves is self-realization in the form of maternity, and not simply a child to care for; and she indignantly rejects the idea of adultery, affirming her belief in the sacrament of marriage. Finally Yerma, half mad with sorrow, is taken to the annual pilgrimage to a sanctuary, where barren women go for a blessing and get pregnant. It appears that the sanctuary is but a cover for a fertility ritual, in which males and females participate in order to beget offsprings. Yerma, however participates only in the praying. At the end of the play her husband tells her to resign herself to her circumstances; and when he approaches her lasciviously she strangles him an access of rage and frustration.

Modern criticism tends to see "Yerma" as the tragedy of a psychosomatic barrenness – a variation on the theme of exotic frustration, the central in Lorca. The play is considered one of the greatest achievements in modern poetic drama.