

AMCHA

Adapted from **Shalom Aleichem** by **I. D. Berkowitz**

Play no.16

Opening show: 1/11/1932

Creative team

Staged by: Z. Friedland and B. Tchemerinsky

Music by: A. W. Sterenberg

Setting and Costumes by: M. Smidts

Scenery by: D. Shender

Cast

Shimeleh Soroker, a tailor: B. Tchemerinsky

Etty-Menny, his wife: T. Robins

Beika, their daughter: H. Hendler

Mottel, the tailor's apprentices: R. Kliatzkin

Koppel, the tailor's apprentices: A. Meskin

Solomon Fein, the landlord, an old bachelor: S. Bruk

Reb Asher Fein, his uncle: S. Findel

Golda, Reb Asher's wife: Batamr

Koltoon, Fein's renting agent: M. Benyamini

Soloveichik, an up-to-date matchmaker: A. Baratz

Pearl, a woman who sells flour: T. Youdelevitz

Himmelfarb, a bank clerk: A. Amtal

Mendel, a man-servant: M. Gnessin, A. Kutai

Yochebed, a maid-servant: N. Shein

Act 1

Shimeleh Soroker, "man of thread and needles, son of Israel, your people", lives with a great hope: he possesses a lottery ticket –and today is drawing day. He dreams of the highest prize – 200, 000. In the meantime, there is rent to pay: Koltoon, the renting agent, presses mercilessly, threatening to throw him out of the house. The tailor's apprentices, Mottel and Koppel, are both in love with Beilka, the tailor's only daughter. Mottel offers to draw lots (pull knots") with Koppel for Beilka who surprises them at this occupation. Comes Ety-Menny, raging against the agent and the landlord. Shimeleh alone arrives in excellent spirits, fortified by his faith in his "Guardian Angel" who will surely arrange the awaited miracle. Solomon Fein comes to try on a suit and lectures Shimeleh on the holy necessity of paying rent. The clock strikes midday. Shimeleh sends Beilka and Mottel to find out about the lottery at the bank. Enters Koltoon, sniffing about for Beilka. The tailor and his wife warn him to leave their daughter alone, and Koppel throws him out. Then comes Pearl for her flour money, and after her Soloveichik, the matchmaker, with his latest "combination" – to betroth Beilka to Koltoon. Noise is heard outside. The whole village is running to Shimeleh. Himmelfarb, the bank clerk, enters with the overwhelming news – the tailor's ticket won 200,000.

Act 2

Shimeleh's new wealthy house. There are great innovations: Koltoon manages the house and gives instructions in "aristocratic manners"; Pearl rules over the kitchen; Mendel guards the door. Every day, there is a feast – fried geese. Shimeleh contemplates betrothing his daughter to Solomon Fein and to become the latter's partner by investing money in houses. Beilka is miserably and lonesome for Mottel and Koppel who arrive with a new suit for Shimeleh. Beilka complains to them. Shimeleh, well fed and beaming, enters warmly greeting his former apprentices. He tries on the suit and gives them a lesson in tailoring. Beilka reads letters asking for charity, and Shimeleh reveals his generosity. Shimeleh and his wife leave to visit their future in-laws. Beilka is disgusted with the whole affair. Mottel and Koppel are bent on rescuing her from the "bourgeois" danger threatening her. As Shimeleh returns with the Feins, the young people escape through a window. Shimeleh discusses business with his prospective partners, affirming that no worker will be thrown out of his houses. Here appears Mendel with the news that Beilka ran away with the apprentices. Everyone rushes out in pursuit.

Act 3

Mottel and Koppel bring Beilka to her former home, now their workshop. While Koppel goes to find a carriage, Mottel discovers that, of the two, he has been chosen by Beilka. Here he pursuers enter. Shimeleh scolds the young culprits. Enters Himmelfarb with new information: there was an error – the ticke did not win! The relatives-to-be leave the house. Shimeleh is over whelmed by the blow, but Beilka, "the daughter of his people", cheers him, and he becomes his old gay self, "the man of thread and needles, son of Israel, your people.