

Periphery

By Fr. Langerd

Play no.15

Opening show: 10/05/1932

Creative team

Hebrew by: Jacob Horowitz

Staged by: Z. Friedland

Setings by : Rubin

Music by: Fordhaus Ben-Zissi

Setings Executed by: M. Rubenstein

Cast

Frenchy: S. Finkel

Anna: H. Rovina

Barburka: A. Meskin

Tony: A Baratz

Judge: Z. Friedland

Gentleman: R. Klatzkin

Maid: N. Shein

Frenchy, the much-liked waiter and dancer, persuaded b his friend (Barbuka the butcher and lame Tony), to participate in the "clean up" of a certain house and was caught as a result, returns from prison to his former apartment and finds a new roomer there – Anna, "whose luck has turned against her and who has sunk way down". These two unfortunate creatures, who crave a bit of warmth and friendship, soon fall in love with one another.

Frenchy finds his friends in the saloon and demands of them to return frock-coat without her can't get any work. But the frock is gone; it has passed over to the hands of the bartender. Barbuka "the Government official" (for he has been appointed to a new post), promises to set things right and they make peace. While the music goes on in he saloon. Tony convinces Frenchy and Anna and he will make a very fine pair of dancers if only the opportunity be given them to appear in one of the bars.

Anna's room again. She has a new visitor, - an old sinner, very rich, yet despise ingly avaricious. Frenchy comes in suddenly. The old man threatens to call the police. Frenchy grasps his cane out of his hand and beats him up. Anna, who is very much frightened, tries to bring the old man to, but it is all in vain. He dies. Frenchy is ready to confess his guilt to the police so that nothing should happen to her. But she, out of her great love, does not accept his suggestion. So he puts the dead body over his shoulder and carries it out. He places it near some structure that his being built and turns it over to a policeman without arousing any suspicion whatever.

Under a municipal bridge-their usual place of meeting – all the friends are assembled. They are all gay and decide to step into the saloon, leaving Frenchy all alone in his gloom (is he conscience-stricken?) and there appears before him a strange figure; he who was a Government Judge and failed to see the importance of all the limited and avenging codes of laws for he was in the service of absolute peace and justice. He is a drunkard now and is ready to give advice to all embittered who are nameless and homeless for the price of one glass of whiskey. He promises Frenchy his help. But in the meantime Frenchy has only to rely upon his good fortune.

Upon being invited by the widow of the murdered old man. Frenchy steps in to pay her a visit. The haughty maid tells him that it was the death of the old sinner that actually brought peace and happiness to the whole house. As a token of gratitude for it is he who has found the dead body), they give him all the clothes of the old man, among which here is a frock-coat.

Now all Frenchy's wishes have been fulfilled. Anna and he succeed in getting work. They dance in a bar (soon enough there are many who take a liking to the pretty dancer and all is well). On the face of things they have reached the height of success but the guilt of the murder does not give Frenchy any chance o rest. He finds no peace of mind; he his tortured

inwardly; he must reveal his secret to somebody. But all his friends refuse to listen to him; they actually shut his mouth. Even Anna is not in a position to calm him down. Whom is he to tell his tale to? He sees but one way and that is to appear in the police-station, which he does. He goes there, confesses, and is ready to accept whatever sentence given. But here, too, he meets with no success. There is no one to listen to him nor is there anyone to believe him. Who then is to save him from his spiritual torture? Perhaps it will be that strange judge. And do indeed it is. The judge lends an open ear to his pleading. He is the only one to believe him, and he is glad to find a person who actually craves, with all his heart and soul, for a just verdict. Why, there is an actual salvation of the soul in this type of trial and not a hand of vengeance. A trail of justice is therefore performed in all details, at the end of which it is clearly seen that Frenchy used the inheritance of the murdered man for his own good and welfare only in order to save his beloved from starvation, whereas she, on the other hand, was not at all loyal to him. He reprimands her with an outpour of anger for it is she who has actually brought it about that he commit that dreadful crime and now she proved to be unfaithful and the eyes of the judge gleamed with the light of wisdom and understanding: "One murder brings another and so the ball rolls on forever" – but this is not the way. And so the verdict is that Frenchy must give his whole life to nothing but love: "Is this the way to a new life? Is this the solution, the peace of mind, the forgiveness?"