

Professor Mannheim

By Hans Scheer

Play no.25

Opening show: 25/05/1934

Creative team

Hebrew by: G. Hanoch

Staged by: Leopold Lindeberg

Setings : E. Luftglass

Executed by: J. Schereschewski and A. Heller

Cast

Professor Mannheim, Chief Surgeon, Director of the Clinic: Sch. Finkel

Dr. Karlsen, Chief Doctor: A. Cutai

Dr. Hirsch, first assistant : M. Benjamini

Dr. Hellpach, second assistant: A. Warshawer

Dr. Inge Reinwald, Intern: F. Lubitch

Hedwig, Operating nurse room: L. Hariel

Simon, Orderly: A. Meskin

Dr. Dietrich, Chief Editor of the New Tageblat: M. Genessin

Ellen, Mannheim, wife of Professor Mannheim: I. Govinska

Rolf, son: Z. Benchaim

Ruth, daughter: H. Hendler, Sch. Doer

Ernst, a young workman: J. Avital

Act 1

Sterilizing room in the clinic of Professor Mannheim, a German doctor, surgeon, fought at the front during the World War, Jew occupying a high social position.

Time: before the second elections of the Reichs president.

Mannheim is a Democrat and member of the Hindenburg Election Committee.

The doctors and staff of the clinic are partly Jews (Mannheim, Hirsch, Simon), partly Christian Democrats (Karlsen, Hedwig) and partly National Socialists (Hellpach, Inge).

From amongst the patients Dr. Dietrich is being carried into the room, ready to be operated.

A discussion takes place in the clinic, showing the general excitement and the tension of those days. Professor Mannheim takes part in the discussion and whilst making preparations for a transfusion of blood – offered by Assistant Simon, Zionist – he reveals his liberal ideas about the anti-Semitic theory of races.

Act 2

Residence of Professor Mannheim, 28th February 1933, one day after the Reichstag Fire. His son Rolf, member of a group of Socialist students, is reading the news in the papers.

Differences of opinion arise between him and his mother, wife of Professor Mannheim – a quiet Christian woman fond of her son – and between his younger sister Ruth, who sympathises the Fascist Youth Organization.

Professor Mannheim enters and forbids Rolf to participate in any political activities.

Meanwhile they hear about the arrestation of intellectuals of the Left and about the outburst of a wave of antisemitism.

Dr. Inge arrives from the clinic and announces that she, as a National-Socialist, cannot continue to work under the orders of a Jew. She is witness of a serious clash in the Mannheim family. Rolf leaves his parents home.

Act 3

Residence of Professor Mannheim, as in Act 2. April 1933, after the boycott on the Jews, Professor Mannheim has been drive out of his position in accordance with the new laws of the Government. His son has gone without leaving behind any new. His daughter is sent home after an antisemitic attack in school.

Simon arrives to watch over the Professor. A short discussion arises between them. Some of his friends advise him to flee abroad, but he does not want to hear about deserting the front and against all warnings he runs to the clinic.

Workman Ernst brings "pamphlets" for Rolf Inge enters and tells the mother that she saw Rolf distributing pamphlets in the street. She promises to bring him home instead of delivering him to S.A (Storm Troopers)/

Mannheim is brought home after having been molested near the clinic. The S.A come to arrest Rolf, whom Inge succeeded to bring home. Amongst them also Dr. Hellpach, Inge, impressed by his courage, saves Rolf from imprisonment.

Act 4

At the clinic, as in Act 1. The next day.

Professor Mannheim has returned to his post on the strength of the amendment to the Law on the Officials, allowing those who fought at the Front to return to their work. The Nazi doctor Hellpach is appointed Commissioner of the hospitals of the district. He enters the clinic and forces Mannheim to sign a list of those members of the staff on whom the Amendment does not apply and who are therefore dismissed. Amongst these also Simon, who is considered as the best worker of the clinic. Mannheim refuses to sign and as a protest adds his own name to the list. Hellpach calls this "Sabotage" and Mannheim on his part bursts out in sharp criticism of this offense against the liberty of conscience. The Commissioner draws up minutes and asks all those present to sign. Everybody signs, also Dr. Mannheim's friends, except Inge. When Mannheim himself is called upon to sign the minutes, he sees no other issue but to commit suicide. Before his death he turns to Simon and Inge, asks them to find Rolf, and says: "I myself did not see another way out, perhaps you, the younger generation, will find a better and more courageous solution".