

Love On The Dole

By Walter Greenwood

Play no. 34

Opening show: 23/03/1936

Hebrew Text : Reuben Grossman

Staged by : B. Chemerinsky

Settings by : E. Luftglass

Cast

Sall Hardcastle: A. Govinska / F. Liubitz

Larry Meath: A. Kutai

Mr. Hardcatle: A. Meskin

Mrs. Hardcatle : Hariel

Marry Hardcatle: J. Avital

Mrs. Jike: H Hendler

Mrs. Dorbelle: S. Doar

Mrs. Bull: J. Yudelevitz

Helene Hawkins: N. Shein

A Policeman: J. Rubinstein

Sam Grundy: J. Benjamini

Act 1

As the curtain rises Larry Meath is heard making a speech on the door step of the Hard castles about the hard life of Hank park, unemployment and pauperdom which are legacy of the Industrial Revolution. When he comes into the house Sally and he exchange many loving words; they both aspire for something finer, more lofty than the life in Hanky Park. He proposes to Sally that they had better wait about getting married till he saves up some money. Harry comes in all excited about his machines at Marlow's – those big, huge powerful ones. He tells Sally about the "three penny treble" he bought from Sam Grundy, and if his horse wins he will buy her whatever she likes and he will get himself a new suit, which he needs so badly. Mrs. Hardcastle comes in announcing the visit of Mrs. Jike and her circle - for spirits and fortune-telling. Mr. Hardcastle comes but leaves shortly after, and Mrs. Hardcastle is glad of it, for she knows that he dislikes the circle of women. Mrs. Jike, Mrs. Bull and Mrs. Dorbell come in. After some singing she begins to conjure up the spirits. Upon the request of Mrs. Hardcastle she tells Sally's fortune, sees much money for her and two men after her, - one fat fellow and another thin one. Finally she sees blood and shrieks. Sally becomes angry and drives them out for she sees that pack of dirty old women as symbolic of Hanky Park for all Hanky Parkers go the same road – poverty and pawnshop and dirt and drink!

Act 2

An alley in Hanky Park. Helen and Harry are seen walking and finally sit themselves down in some corner – a refuge for their love. The policeman who comes along interferes and they slip away. He and Charlie talk of the latest

news, of Hank Park and pass on. Then Helen and Harry come back, talk of their love and their hope for the future. He tells her of his "threepenny treble".

Voices of newspaper boys announcing latest news about the races. Harry is the winner. He comes along, his sister Sally follows. Soon after comes Sam Grundy, who pays Harry in the presence of the crowd surrounding them not without many a word of self-adoration and much boasting. Sam is nice to Sally, but he has to take off when the policeman comes along. He does, however, come back soon to find Sally alone, after Harry has given her some of his newly acquired money and has run off to find Helen in order to tell her of his "fortune". He tries to embrace her, promises her much, but she hates him and threatens to tell Larry. He is offended and when she goes away he calls Charlie, his "right hand" telling him to go to Ted Munter who owes him money and have him see to it that something happens to Larry Meath of Saturday; then he will consider his debt paid.

Sally and Larry returns from their walk on the moors. They are still under the spell of their walk and parting is hard. They sit and dream of their future. He suddenly buries his face in his hands, and when Sally asks him what the matter is he tells her that he "was given the sack" but he didn't say anything to her about it because he didn't want to mar their day on the moorland. She, in spite of it all, suggests that they get married. They will live on his dole and her wages. They can deprive them of whatever they wish but their love they can't take away!

Act 3

Scene I – Sam Grundy, who has proposed to take Sally as his housekeeper in Wales, comes to hear what Mrs. Hardcastle has to say about it. She refuses him but Mrs. Dorbell and Mrs. Bull, both, cannot see what is wrong about it. But she is obstinate and tells Sam that he should go; Sally may come in and then again her husband may learn of the whole thing. He goes asking her to reconsider the matter and at the same time advising her not to let Harry participate in the day's unemployment demonstration. The women still remain persuading Mrs. Hardcastle, but she finally asks them to leave. Harry comes with bad news: after one year he "is knocked off dole", because Sally has work and his father is on dole. In the meantime he asks his mother to let him stay with Helene in Sally's room, for she is with child and he is now obliged to stay with her. When Mr. Hardcastle comes he bursts forth and gives him a flat refusal. Harry then dashes out of the house. The roar of the demonstrators is heard, when Mrs. Hardcastle tells her husband of Grundy's warning. Hearing Grundy's name he is enraged, and upon learning of his proposal he goes wild. Just then Sally enters. She is sorry that Harry was driven out (she met him on the street) and she complains: after all she supports the house, she should have been consulted. Larry comes in asking Hardcastle to join the commission to the mayor. He stops a while exchanging with Sally some words of love mixed with sorrow. He rushes out when he hears the drum. Helen comes to look for Harry, and learning that he too was driven out like herself she is at a loss. Sally gives her some money to get a marriage licence. It will make it easier for Harry to get a job. Just then Mrs. Bull comes running in

telling of "the bloody war out there". Harry comes in bleeding, holding a hat in his hand. Sally recognized it; it is Larry's. She goes out but soon returns leaning on her father's arm sorrowful and mourning: Larry is dead and there is nothing left but dreams now...

Scenell – Sally has decided to go with Sam Grundy. Mrs. Hardcastle is still uneasy. Mrs. Jike, Mrs. Bull and Mrs. Dorbell console her. Sally comes back after having ordered a taxi to take her to the station. She gives her mother some of the money. Sam has advanced her and goes out. When Mr. Hardcastle comes he drives the women out. He is all excitement having heard about his daughter's decision. When she comes in again and he asks her about it, she answers in the affirmative. He bursts forth, reprimands her most harshly and then he actually strikes her. Just then Harry comes in announcing that Helen is about to give birth and that Mrs. Bull is to be called. Sally gives him some money for the new "poor devil" of Hanky Park. She also gives Harry two notes – letters of recommendation, which Sam Grundy has given her, addressed to Mr. Moreland, his friend. These mean sure jobs for her brother. Harry runs off hysterical with joy, and Sally, after begging her father's pardon and kissing her mother good-bye, leaves. Both father and mother then remain shattered and depressed.