

Parents and Children

By W. Warner

Play no. 44

Opening show: 30/10/1938

Hebrew by: A. Hameiri

Staged by : Z. Friedland

Setting by: E. Luftglass

Cast

Prof. Yunek: I. Bertonoff

Anna, his wife: T. Robins

Paula, a physician: F. Libitch

Fritz, an engineer: Ben Haim

Lilith, wife of Messiah Ben-Josef: F. Lubitch

Armilus, the Prophet: Z. Friedland

The Old Blind Man , the Prophet Eliahu: B. Tchemerinsky

Executioner: I. Bertonov

Clown: A. Kutai

Gog: } The Kings Ch. Amitai

Mgog: } Of Evil S. Brooki

Crowd: I. Avital, Ch. Amitai, Ben-Chaim, M. Benjamini, S. Brook, A.

Baraz, Bat-Ami,

S. Doar, H. Hendler, L. Hariel, A. Warshawer, R. Klatzkin, N. Shein.

Act 1

Prof. Yunek, an instructor in a secondary school, can barely make end meet in his home. His two sons, Fritz, the engineer, and Georg (Gerogie) who has just been graduated from school, are both unemployed; and his two daughters, Paula, the physician, and Hannie, the stenographer, work very hard and earn little. He is informed that the support that has been coming from his sister Molly; a lady of means, is to come no more, as a result of the mutual hatred existing between her and his wife Anna, and also because Fritz and Paula have left the Church as heretics and misbelievers. But the professor is especially embittered on account of the new concepts and views prevalent among the youth, the corruption of the new generation, who leave the beaten moral path of the past generation, "the humanistic and philosophic period of Goethe and Lessing". He is likewise opposed to abortions, which are resorted to as a means of saving families from ever-growing poverty. He forbids his son Georgie to play football, objects to all acts of favouritism and the likes of things which the new generation is so fond of. But life is ever more powerful than he: Young Hannie is about to become a film-star under the direction of Paulsen. The production is short of funds, some two hundred thousand crowns are needed, and Hannie persuades her mother to get the money from her, disliked aunt, Molly. Her brother Fritz urges her on, in the hope that the family will again stand on its feet because of Hannie's career. In the meantime the professor learns more about his son Georgie: not only does he play football, but he is supported by a harlot; he is also told of Hannie's staying in

one room with Paulsen, the director' during the filming of the picture. He is very much alarmed over the moral decline of his own home, upon hearing that his beloved daughter Paula also has a "friend", whom she does not intend to marry.

Act 2

Georgie becomes a renowned football player Paulsen, who procured one hundred thousand crowns from Aunt Molly by help of the mother, advises Hannie to get closer to the rich manager of the film and get the other hundred thousand. But this is not enough; Fritz the engineer, is about to get work through the Minister, but the latter promises to do so on one condition only, namely that the professor join his party. The professor, anxious about his dear son's state, finds himself also in the decline – and signs the papers.

Act 3

The professor has been discharged from his post at school and put on a small old-age pension. The family is in despair. But here comes the salvation in more than one form: Georgie is given the job of bookkeeper by his club; Fritz does not get the position promised him by the Minister, because it has been learnt in the meantime that the professor did, indeed, sign the papers to join the new party but had forgotten so to speak, to leave his old party; Hannie, however, who has become rather familiar with the rich manager, is successful not only in her film, but in getting a job for her brother Fritz, the engineer. At the end, Paula, too, rises: her rich "friend", Dr. Gunther, proposes to marry her; he is about to leave the hospital and open a private clinic for illegal abortions for the rich ladies, who want no children. All this is a death blow to the professor, who calls out in a silent and desperate cry: Happy end!
Happy end!