

Barbara Blomberg

By Karl Zuckmayer

play no. 96

Opening show: 11/12/1949

Hebrew version: Lea Goldberg

Producer : Erich Shenlank

Setting by: Dr. Paul Levi

Music by: Fordhaus Ben-Cissy

The Cast

Barbara Blomberg: H. Rovina

Pyramis , major, her husband: Aharon Meskin

Massy, at one time the Court's Violinist: A. Kutai

The Duke of Alba, commissioner of the Netherlands: Shimon Finkel

Ferdinand of Toledo, his concubine's son: Shmuel Rodenski

Albornoz, Head of Alba's Secret Service : Haim Amitai

Roger Van Hogstrate, Dutch Nobleman: Shlomo Bar-Shavit

Anthony Ratcliffe, adventurer : Ari Warshaver

Don Juan of Austria: Azaria Rapoport

Escovedo, his friend and adjutant : Jacob Ben-Moshe

Carolina, Barbara's daughter: Shoshana Ravid

Fryken, a woman with a past : Tamar Robins

A priest: Yehuda Rubinstein

Guard's officer : Elihu Ron

Scene 1

Being the wife of a drunkard Barbara belongs to the lower ranks of life. A charlatan, who at one time brought her to Karl V and later took her son away, now wants to revive the past and get a favour from the court. In a quarrel between him and Barbara's husband, he kills the officer. The police arrest him and he tells Barbara's secret to his captors.

Scene 2

Since her past is no longer a secret, Barbara regards her oath as broken. She Takes advantage of her position as the mother of the heir to the Crown to better her mode of living and to grant beloved daughter a life of security.

Scene 3 and 4

A life of luxury and importance has brought Barbara neither peace nor happiness. After her talk with the tyrant Alba, adventurer Ratcliffe. The daughter, who fails to understand her mother, wants to leave her. Ratcliffe is arrested as a suspected spy. In the meantime Alba leaves the country under pressure of a people fighting for its freedom. In a most critical moment Barbara learns that as a result of the people's revolt in the Netherlands her son has been appointed Commissioner to Brussels.

Scene 5

Mother and son meet in a camp near Brussels. So as not to be in her son's way, Barbara decides to leave everything behind and go to Spain.