

The Heine Family

By S. Gronemann

Play no. 83

Opening show: 13/04/1947

Hebrew by: A. Hameiri

Produced by : S. Finkel

Setting by: E. Luftglass

Music: From the period of the play

The Cast

Prologue:

Heinrich Heine (Harry): I. Shulman

Young Nicodemus Taglioni: N. Buchman

Sefchen: N. Shein

The play:

Heinrich Heine: I. Shulman

Solomon Heine, his uncle: A. Meskin

Amalia Heine: _ }_ **Solomon's:** A. Trelbamna

Therese Heine } _ **daughters:** N. Davidit

Baron Gumpelino: R. Klatzkin

Friedlaender: A. Ninio

Senator Notebohm: H. Amital

Nicodemus Taglioni: N. Buchman

Joseph Taglioni : N. Shein

Hirsch Hyacinth, servant in the

house of Solomon Heine: M. Benjamini / M. GNESIN

Christine, servant in Solomon's house : Bat-Ami / R. Marcus

Gubitz, a journalist: David Vardi

Epilogue:

Heinrich Heine: I. Shulman

Mathilde Heineng : Bat-Ami

Camilla Selden: P. Perach

Cerf, a cure: S. Friedman

The play:

Prologue:

In 1810 Napoleon's army conquered Duesseldorf, the native city of Heinrich (then called Harry) Heine. His Christian school friends shun him and taunt him despite all the talk and the slogans of Liberty, Fraternity and Equality, introduced by the French. The boy finds in Sefchen, the hangman's daughter, someone who shares in his fate.

Act 1

The Boy Harry Heine is employed as a clerk in the bank of his rich uncle, an assimilated Jew name Solomon Heine, in Hamburg. He finds no joy in the world of business and in secret he composes poetry. Solomon Heine, while

not consenting to follow the teachings of David Fried-laender, the well-known "Performer" of Berlin, who preaches mass conversion to Christianity for all the Jews of Germany, is nevertheless very alien to Jewish life. Thanks to the efforts of the Christian housekeeper, Christine, the house is still filled with symbols of Jewish tradition, and Harry's Jewish instincts are cultivated by Hirsch Hyacinth, the old servant.

Harry falls in love with Amalia, his cousin, but she, though ready to flirt with him, intends to marry the rich Mr. Friedlaender, David Friedlaender's nephew. His second cousin Therese, however, loves Harry sincerely.

Harry discovers that the famous singer, Josefa Taglioni is really the auburn-haired Sefchen, about whose performance in Weber's opera, "Freischuetz", the entire city is full of praise. Baron Gumpelino, a converted Jew, is courting Josefa, but her brother Nicodemus, protects her. The fact that Nicodemus and Josefa are the children of a hangman is guarded with great secrecy. Amalia's heart is drawn to Nicodemus, the Teuton.

Gubitz, the editor of the Hamburger Waechter, publishes the sensational news that the Senate has decided to proclaim Solomon Heine a honorary citizen of Hamburg as a token of gratitude for the hospital he has built for the city. The report that Senator Notebohm intends to visit the home of a Jew is interpreted by all as proof that equal rights for Jews will soon become a reality. Gubitz believes that Solomon Heine is the author of the poems which have appeared in his newspaper. Solomon indignantly denies this, for the composition of poetry is not befitting to a solid businessman. In order to protect Harry, Hirsch Hyacinth is prepared to assume responsibility for the folly.

INTERVAL

Act 2

Senator Notebohm's visit causes deep disappointment. The Senate of Hamburg is prepared to accept the great gift from the hands of a Jew only on condition that no Jews should sit on the Board of Director of the hospital. This condition offends Solomon Heine as he regards it as incompatible with The German view of equality of rights, but after thinking the matter over he agrees to the humiliating restriction and requests Harry to write a letter of acceptance for him.

Harry, who is profoundly wounded by his uncle's attitude, words the letter in such a way as to inform Notebohm that the hospital is to serve only the needs of Jews.

Amalia rejects Harry, because she is now in love with Nicodemus. Harry discovers that Therese loves him and he offers to take her with him to America, where a Jewish colony, Ararat, is to be founded, on the initiative of one Mordechai Emanuel Noah, a former major in the America army. Harry dreams of a Jewish state. Hirsch Hyacinth suggests that he should go to Zion, to Jerusalem. Solomon Heine learns of the contents of the letter sent by Harry to the Senate. He reproaches his nephew bitterly. Their quarrel is interrupted by the entrance of Senator Notebohm. To Solomon's great surprise his proud reply has impressed the Senate and for the first time in the history of the city of Hamburg one of its representatives bows to a Jew.

INTERVAL

Act 3

Solomon Heine does not wish to receive Harry in his home any longer. Therese realizes that family life is likely to clip Harry's wings as a poet, and she decides to sacrifice her own happiness. Gubitz suggests to Harry that he should go to Berlin where a new Jewish life is arising under the influence of Eduard Gans

Harry discloses to Amalia that behind the mask of the Teuton hero hides the hangman. Amalia agrees to marry Friedlaender.

When Nicodemus, the hangman, is called away to fulfill his task, Gumpelino hopes he will find happiness in the arms of Josefa, but he is greatly disappointed because Hirsch Hyacinth has succeeded in making him the laughing stock of the town.

Harry is about to leave for Berlin, but there too it is clear that disappointment awaits him, because Gubitz brings him the news that Eduard Gans has become a Christian. Hirsch Hyacinth tells him: "You must first of all become a Christian if you want to be a really good Jew"

Epilogue:- Bout 1850

Heinrich Heine (now Henri in French) lies on his deathbed in Paris, after a life of many disappointments. His wife, Mathilde, who does not understand him, is ignorant of the fact that he is a Jew. Camille Selden (nick named "La Mouche") is his only friend.

Cerf, the cure, visits Heine to bring him the conclusion of the Church before his death. However, despite the fact that he has become a Christian, Heine realizes that he is more closely connected with his people and its hopes than ever before. Cerf, the cure, turns out to be Hirsch Hyacinth's grandson. Heine dreams of the rebirth of the Jewish people and feels himself to be the successor of Yehuda Halevi to whom he has dedicated one of his last poems

ter, who heads the left wing, is among the hostages. "If the disturbances continue, he may be put to death by the firing-squad", Kornel tells his brother Toni. The latter is astounded and imagines it all in his poetic fancy. The mother, who comes on the scene, is very much perturbed over the long absence of Peter. Kornel makes an attempt to make her see the view-point of his party, but in vain; she maintains that there must exist no animosity among people. Just then shots are heard. The riots continue. Peter appears; he is not living, for he has been executed. The mother drops in a swoon. The rest of the dead, - the father, the physician, and the pilot, - all hurry to bring her to, and talk with Peter about his execution. They recall their life in this room and still feel like its occupants.

The skirmish out of doors goes on. The radio announces the order of the "lets" to surrender the city, threatening with bombardment.

The dead disappear with the volley of bombs. The mother comes to. Toni tells her that Kornel has gone out to join the fighting ranks.