

Hillel's House

By Moshe Shamir

Play no. 103

Opening show: 03/12/1950

Directed by : Zvi Friedland

Setting by: Genia Berger

The Cast

Hillel: Yoshua Bertonoff / Shmuel Rodensky

Naomi, his daughter: Pnina Perach / Shoshana Ravid

Rafi: Eliav Ron/ Shlomo Bar-Shavit

Mina: Ina Govinska / Shoshana Duar

Gershon: Shraga Friedman / Israel Becker

The war of liberation brought in its wake certain changes in our way of life and outlook. Together with the brilliant achievements there appeared a certain unwillingness to accept responsibility, a wish to retreat into the small world of complete privacy, and to relegate to others the tasks which society demands of its members. Whereas, the Israeli reality is based now, as before the war, on the willingness of its members to sacrifice their personal gains and comforts for the sake of the whole.

Moshe Shamir in his new play, "Hillel's House", warns us of the dangers incipient in the turning of pioneer hood, of the dynamics inherent in our way of thinking, into selfish professionalism.

Hillel's House that was built on the same pioneering tradition that made this country what it is today, is now shaken by expressions of this reality. The one way out remains the return to the values so hastily forsaken. For they remain the unchanged foundation of our way of life.

Noami returns to her native Kibbutz, after a year of warfare together with Rafi. They announce that they are going to be married. Gershon, a neighbour tells Hillel that the Kibbutz is going to hire workers amongst the new immigrants. Hillel is horrified, believing that hired labor is against the fundamental aims of the Kibbutz. Gershon finds Naomi alone; They were in love a year ago, before she left, an account of Gershon's wife, Mina. Now Naomi does not wish to recommence where they left off, but Gershon is not discouraged. Naomi and Rafi announce to Hillel that they are leaving the Kibbutz. Gershon tells Mina that he is leaving her. Tragedy results of various misunderstandings, but owing to the shock they receive, the various characters find their illusions destroyed, and have to return to the realities of our life, thereby the responsibilities that such a step entails.