

John Gabriel Borkman

By Henrik Ibsen

Play no. 115

Opening show: 15/02/1953

Hebrew Version by: Menashe Levin

Produced by: Shimon Finkel

Setting by: Joseph Carl

The Cast

John Gabriel Borkman: Shimon Finkel

Gunhild B, his wife: Ina Govinska

Erhardt, their son: Leo Filer

Ella Rentheim , Gunhild's sister: Hana Rovina

Foldal: Ari Kutai

Frieda, his daughter: Shfrira Zackai

Part One

We learn about Borkman's affair. As director of the Bank, he used its money to develop mining concerns for the purpose of bringing prosperity to the population of the district. Three years of investigations and five years in prison were the outcome. Released from prison, he finds lodgings at his sister-in-law's villa in the country, where he lives in seclusion for years. He never leaves the house, talks to no one and only from time to time a young girl (Frieda Foldal) comes to play the piano for him.

His wife (Gunhild Borkman) who lives on the first floor of the same villa, sees her only hope in her son Erhardt, a student. By leading a model-life, he should clear the family-name of all the shame and disgrace that his father's deeds have brought upon them. Gunhild's twin-sister, Ella Rentheim, tries to win Erhardt back. She has raised and educated him from childhood. Her days are numbered. She wishes to leave all her wealth to Erhardt, even her family name, but his mother, envious and arrogant, wants her son for herself alone, so that he may fulfill his mission.

The two sisters, who in their youth fought over Borkman, now fight for his son. Borkma, who had loved Ella, had given her up and married her sister for ambition's sake. His son, Erhardt's, fate is the cause of renewed struggle between the sisters.

Part Two

After sixteen years, in which Borkman has not once spoken to his wife, they are brought face to face by the conflict.

All problems of this unfortunate pair are brought to light. Eight years of imprisonment, eight years of solitary confinement to the upper floor, cry out for justice. Erhardt announces his intention to live his own life and leave the oppression of their house behind. He is packed and ready to go with Miss Wilton for a long trip.

In the last scene, in front of the house, we come to the tragic end of an ambitious man, who attained great heights and fell into an abyss; and of two

women, whose life is destroyed by the coldness of the heart, man's greatest enemy on earth.